

LONE WOLF AND CUB

一途の狼

VOLUME 14

DAY OF THE
DEMONS

By KAZUO KOIKE
& GOSEKI KOJIMA



孟連水狼

LONE WOLF AND CUB



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DAY OF THE DEMONS

*By KAZUO KOIKE
& GOSEKI KOJIMA*

子連れ狼



VOLUME
14

A NOTE TO READERS

Lone Wolf and Cub is famous for its carefully researched re-creation of Edo-Period Japan. To preserve the flavor of the work, we have chosen to retain many Edo-Period terms that have no direct equivalents in English. Japanese is written in a mix of Chinese ideograms and a syllabic writing system, resulting in numerous synonyms. In the glossary, you may encounter words with multiple meanings. These are words written with Chinese ideograms that are pronounced the same but carry different meanings. A Japanese reader seeing the different ideograms would know instantly which meaning it is, but these synonyms can cause confusion when Japanese is spelled out in our alphabet. *O-yuruishi o* (please forgive us)!

LONE WOLF AND CUB



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the sixty-ninth

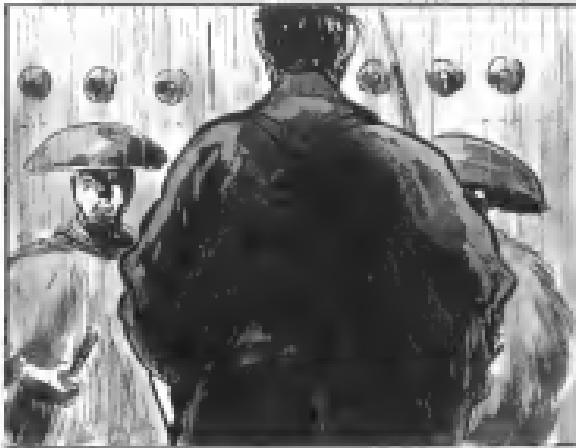
One Rainy Day





KISHI
TAKAYAMA
DANDAMASHI



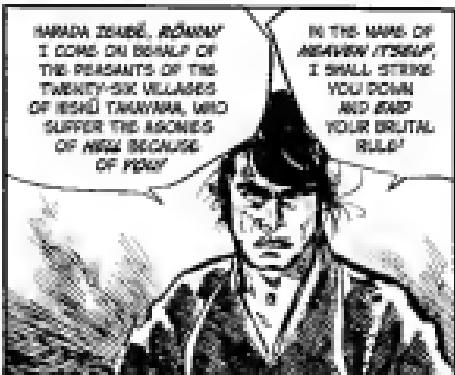








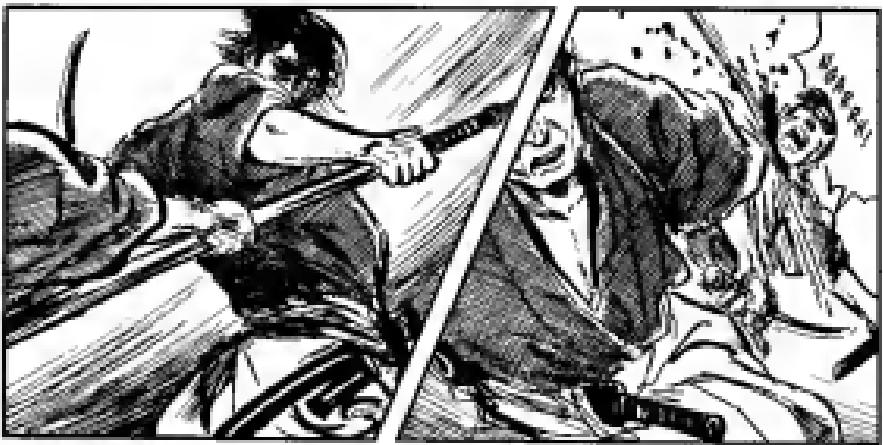
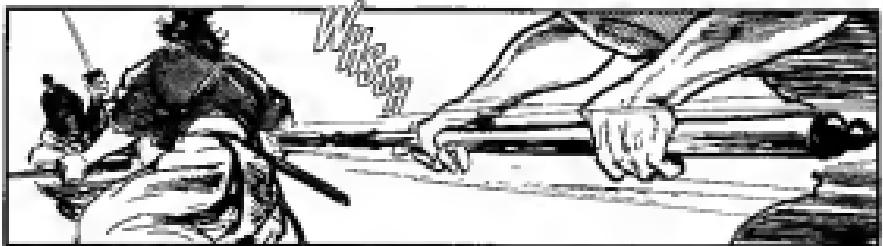


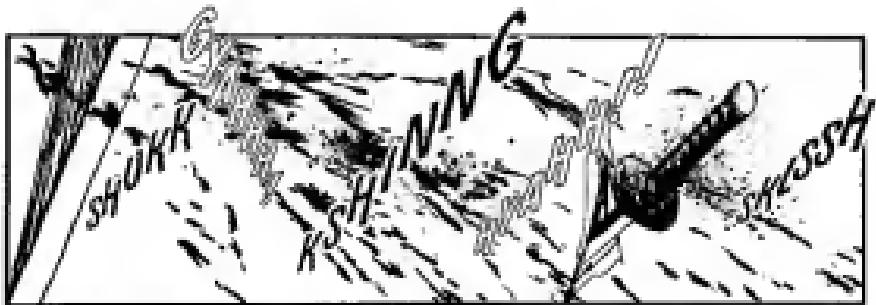


IMPUDENT CUR!

MADE HIM
POVETY







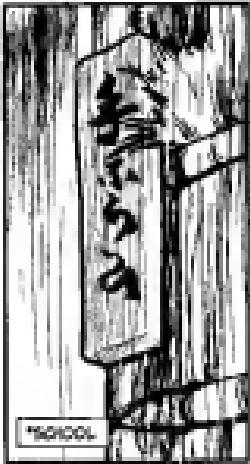


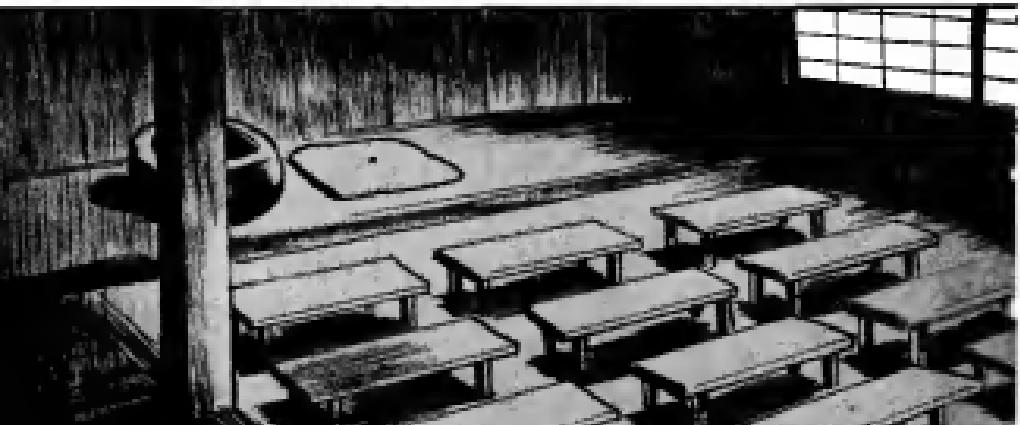










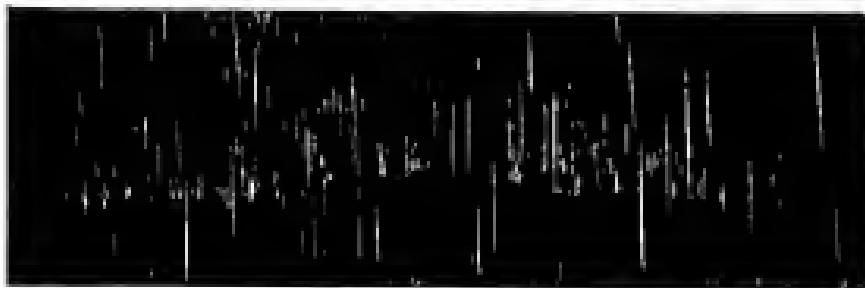
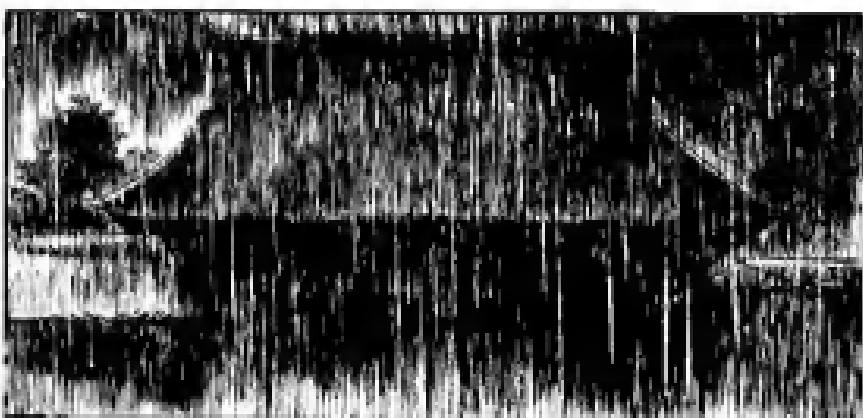




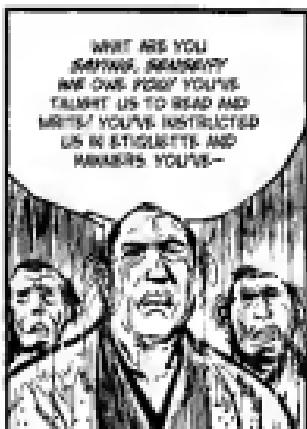










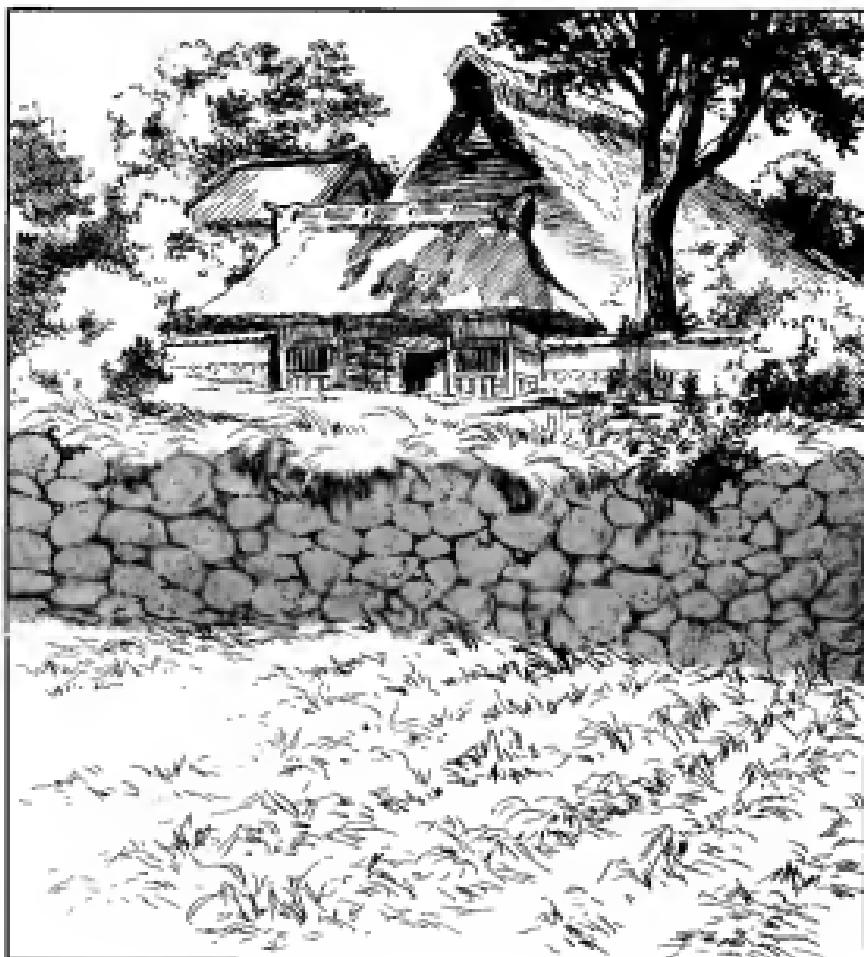




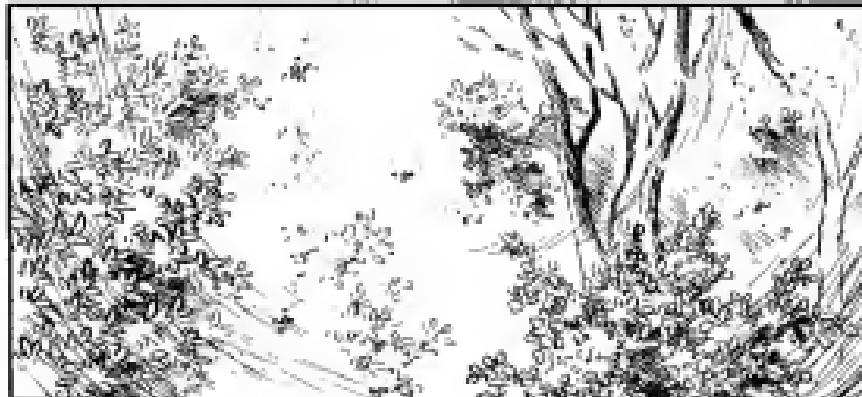


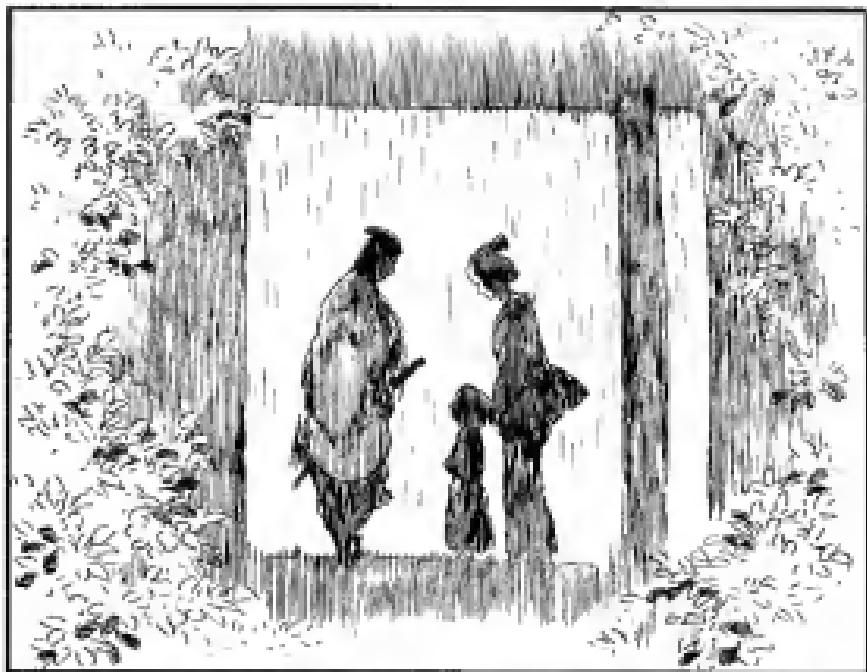




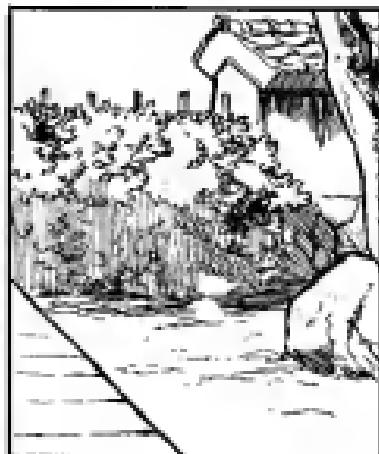
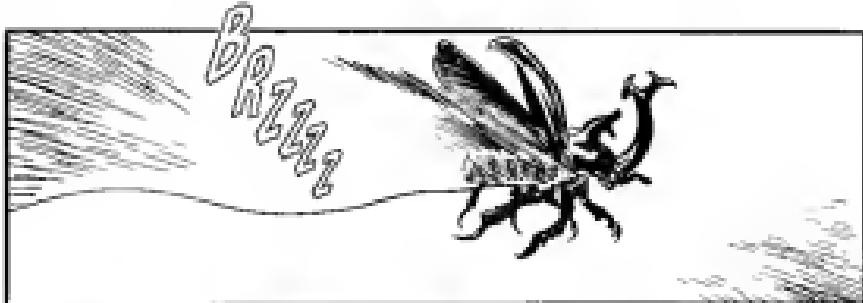




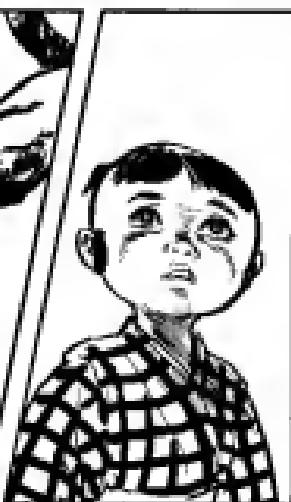
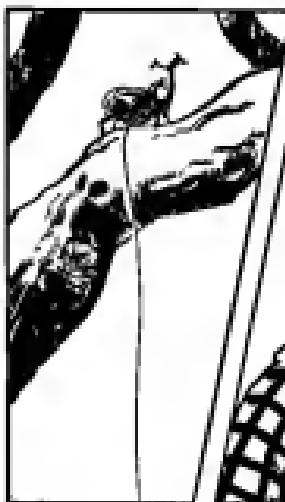
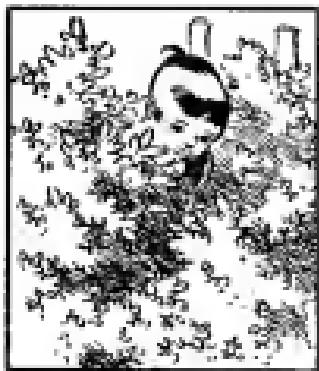


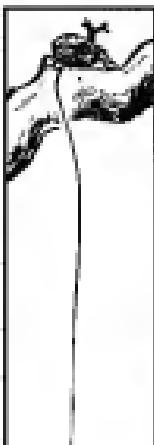


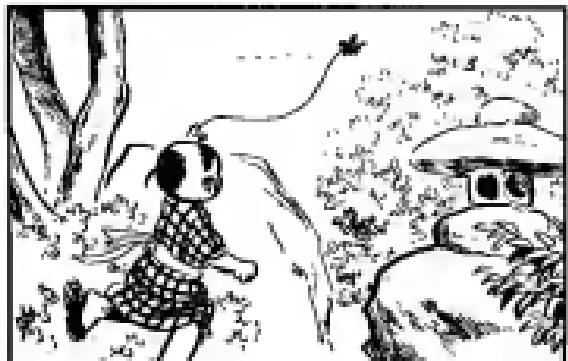


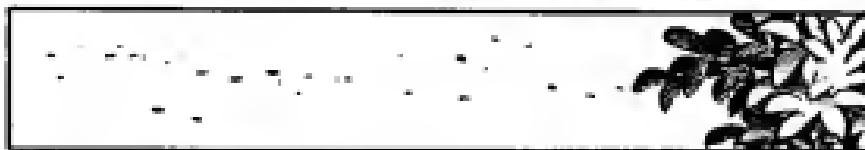
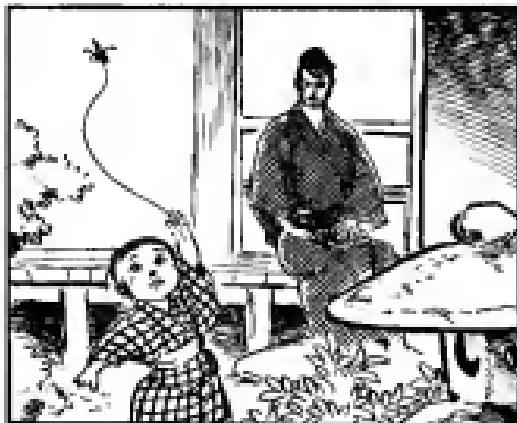
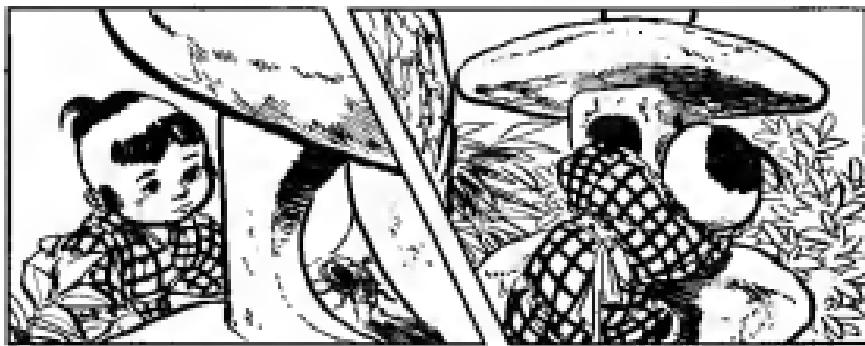


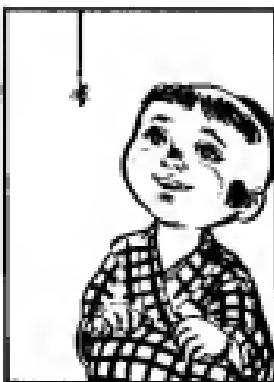
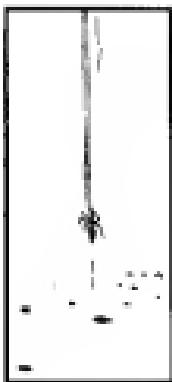


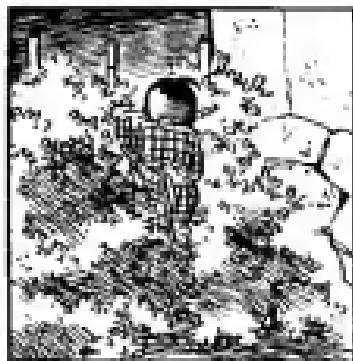


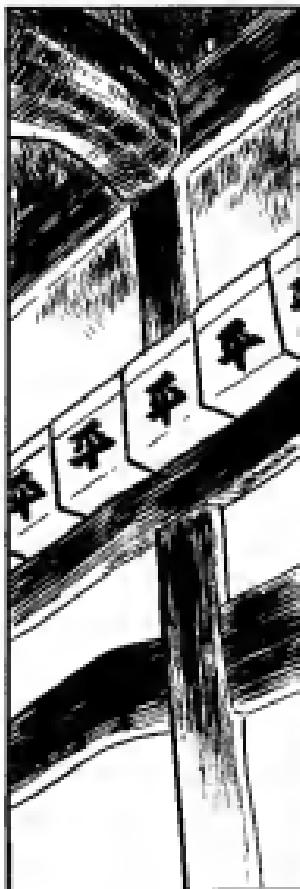


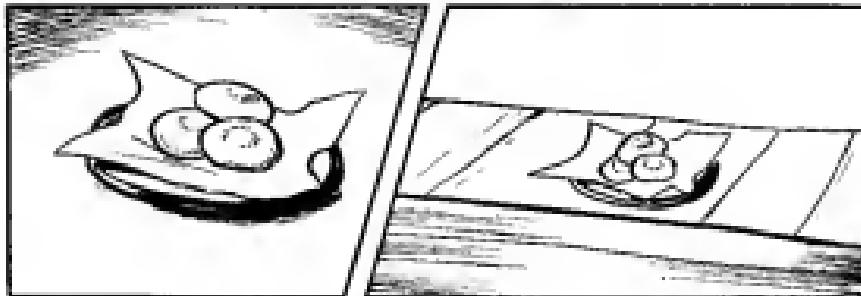


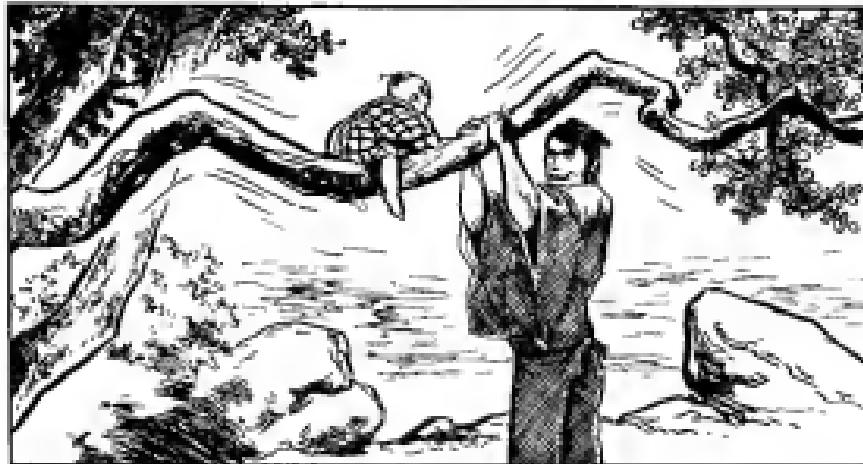


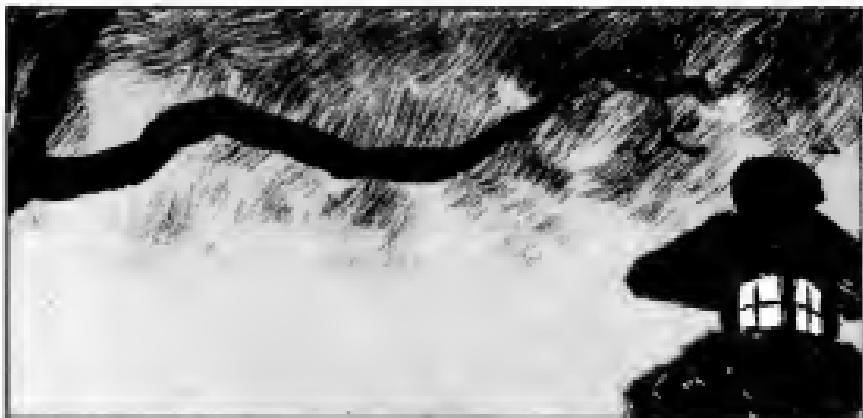








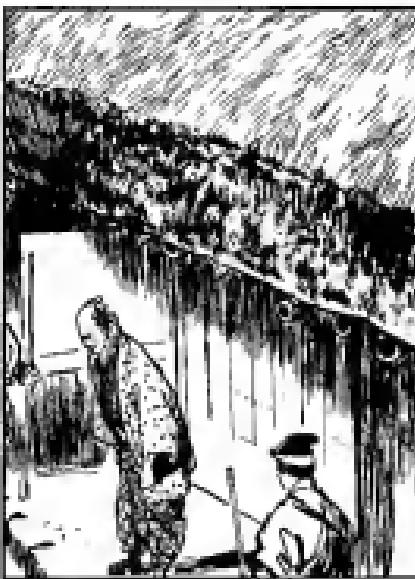
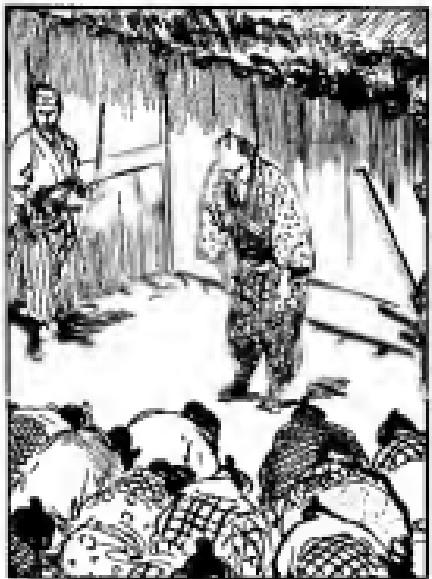


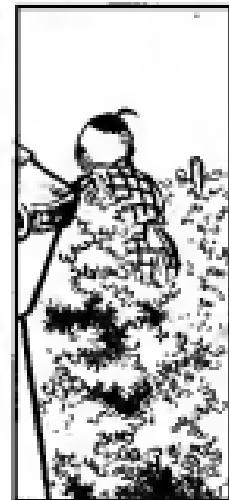
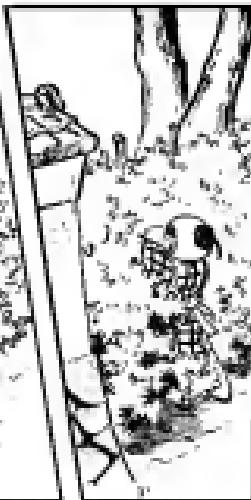
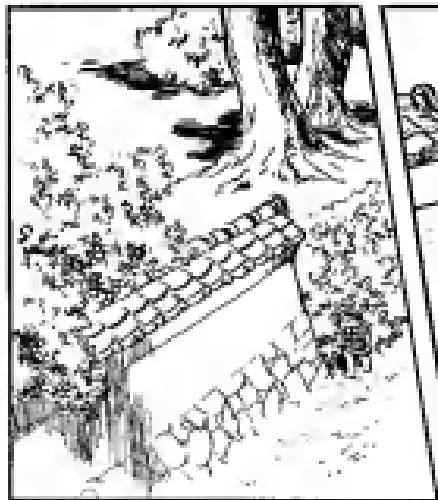


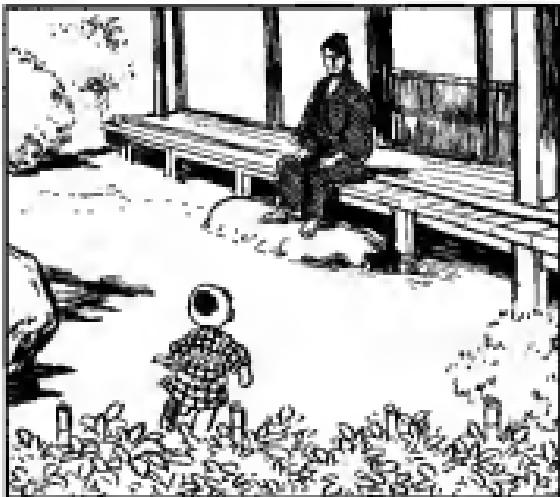
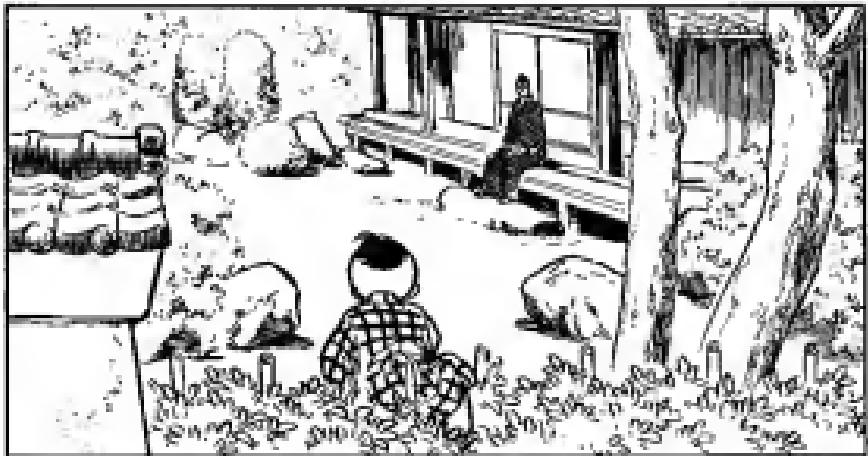


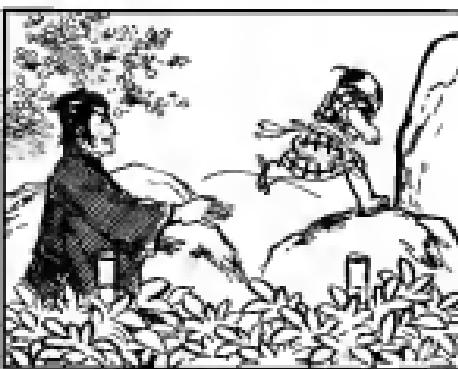
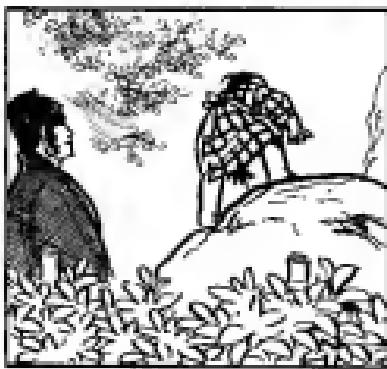
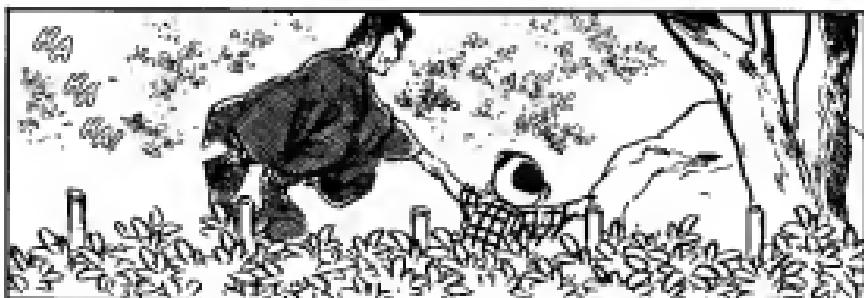


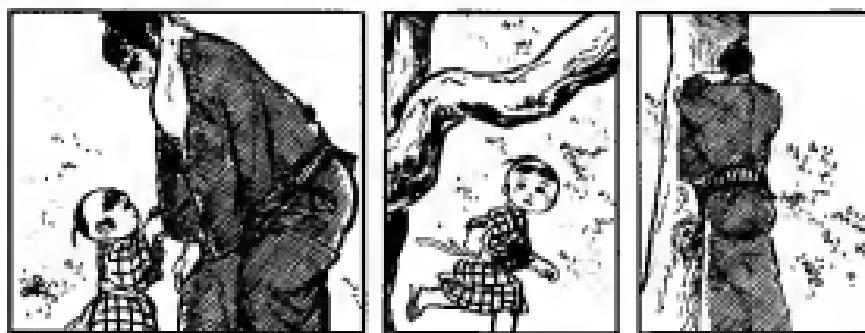
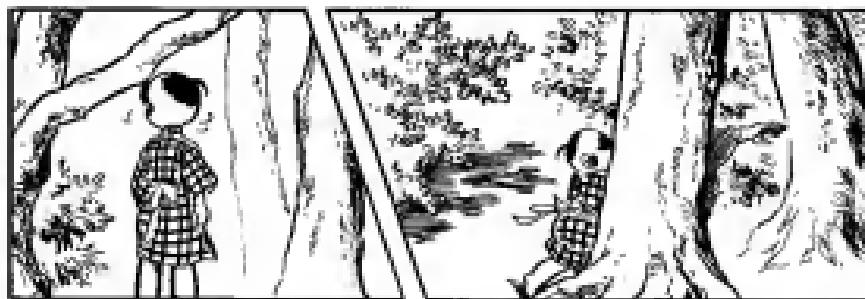


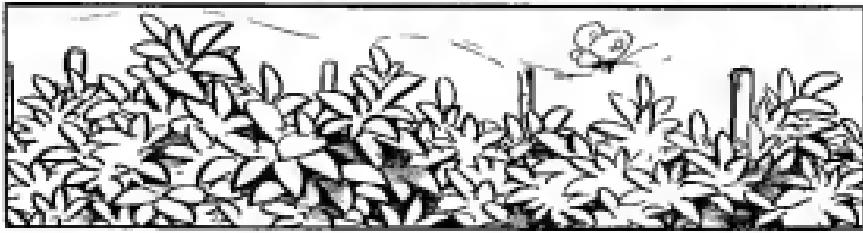
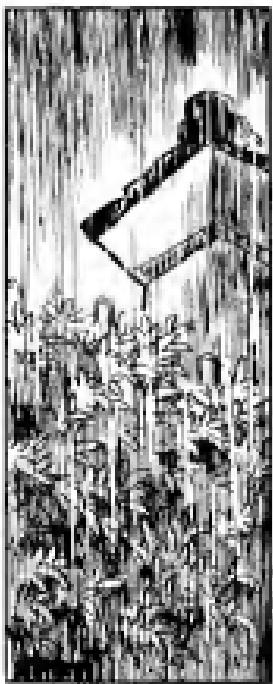


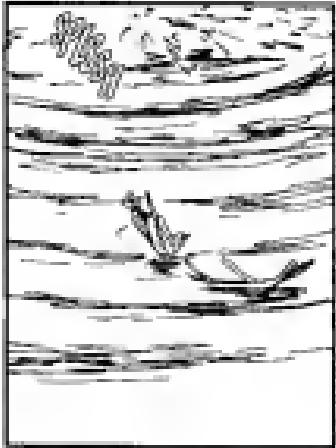
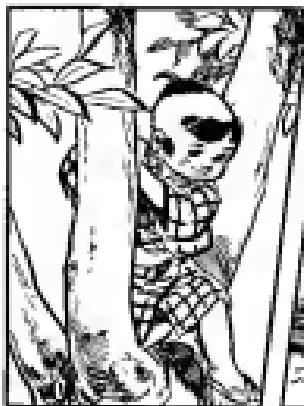


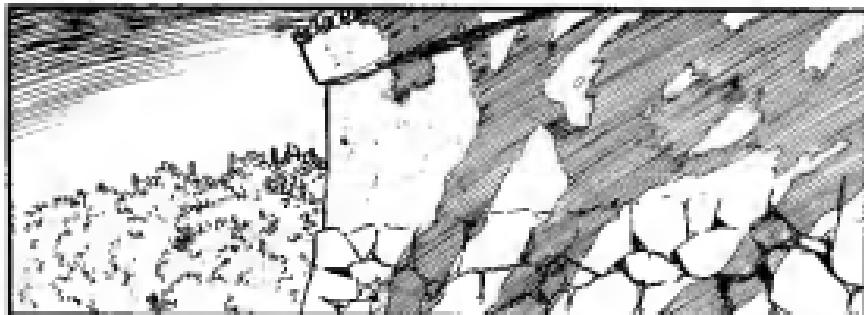
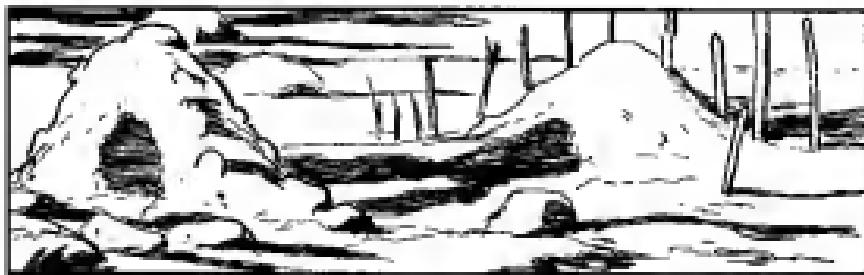
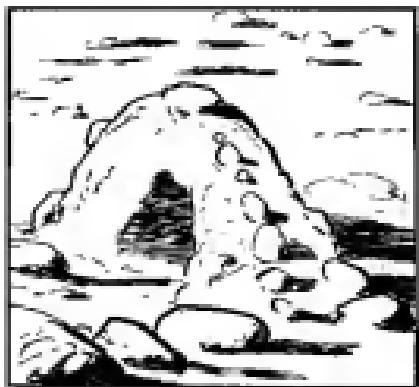


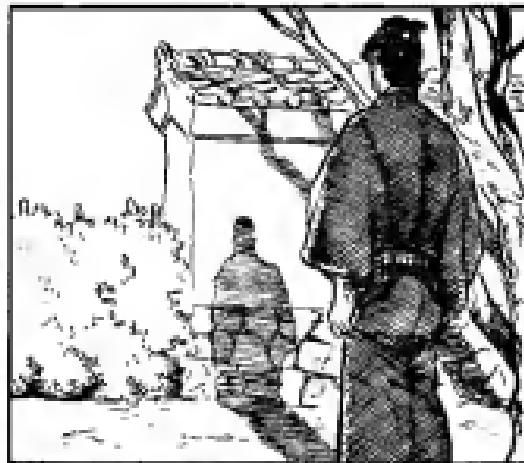
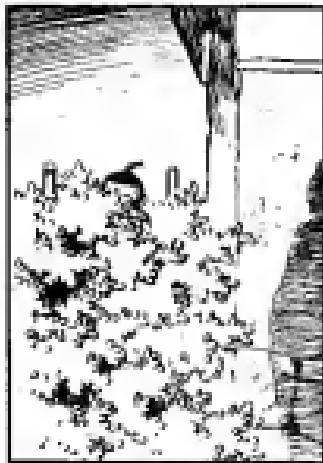
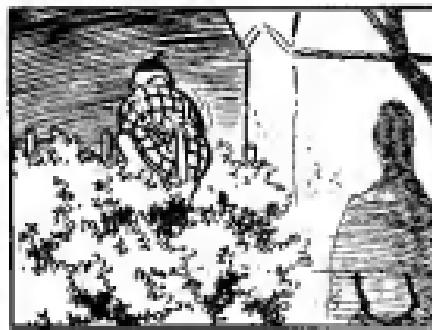
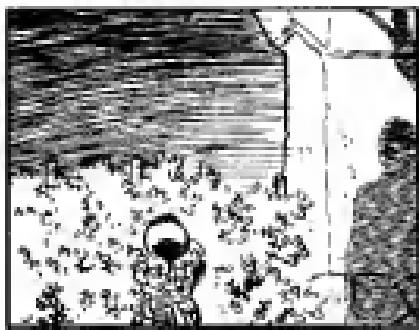




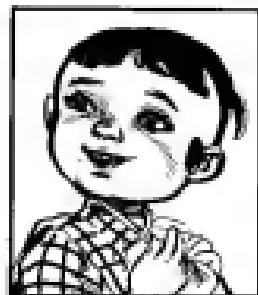
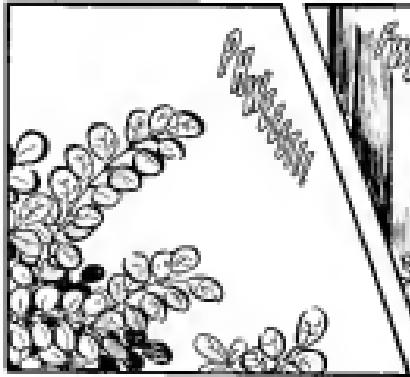


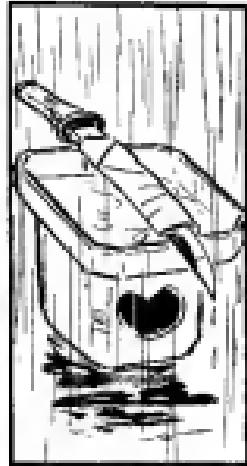








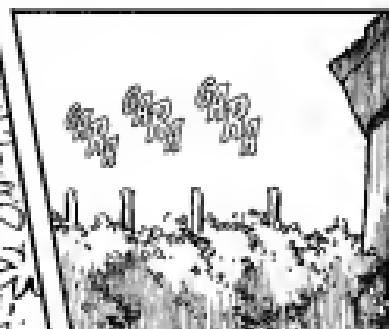
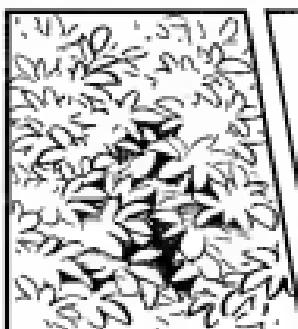
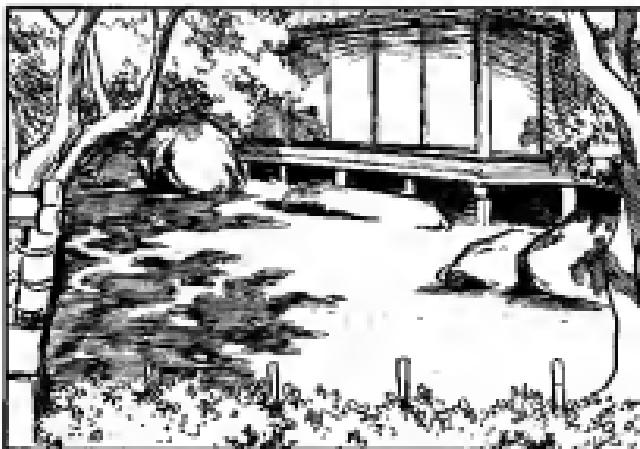


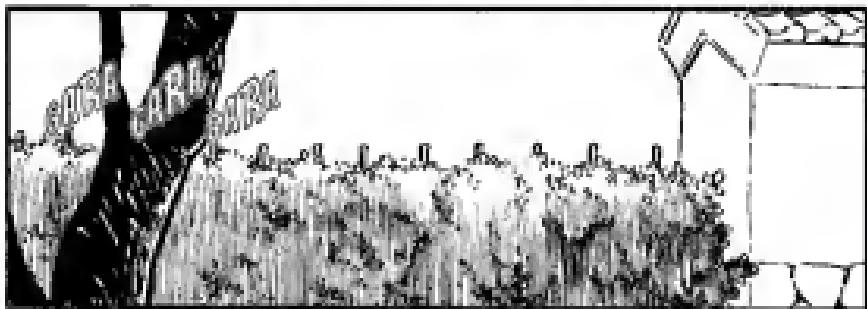
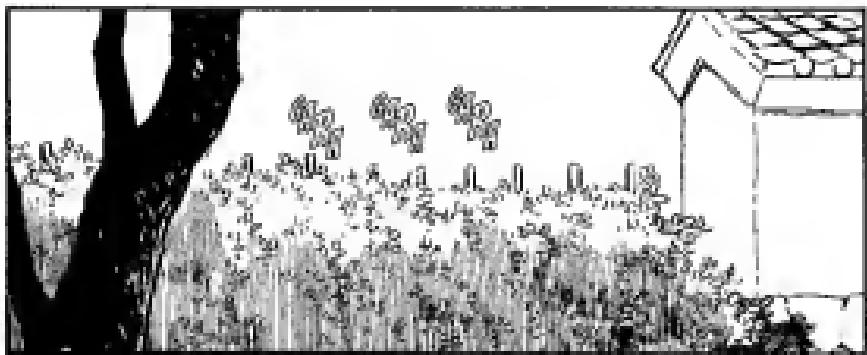












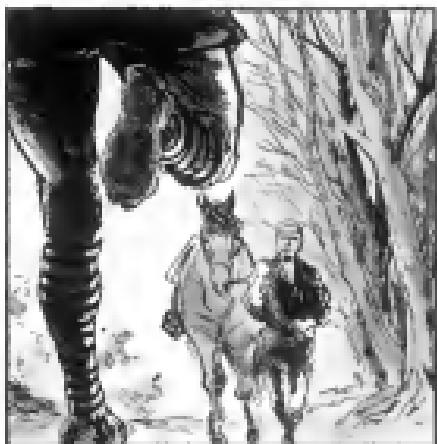


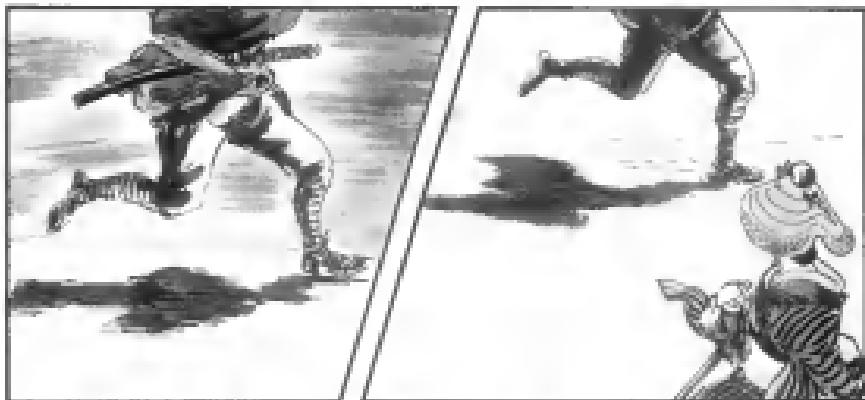
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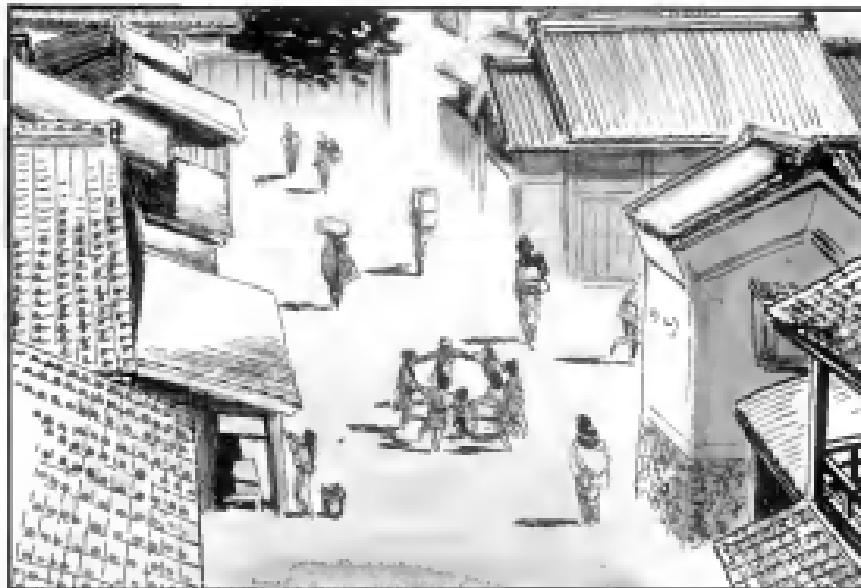
O-Shichiri Man



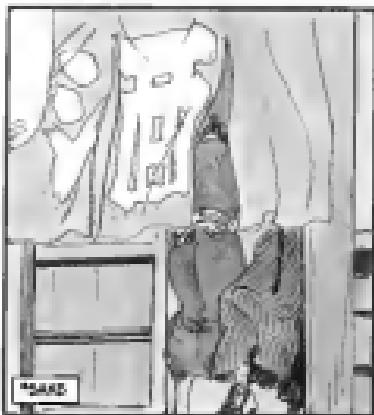


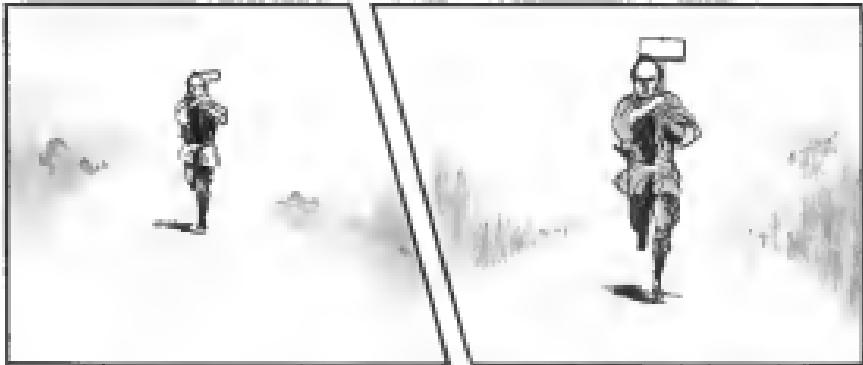
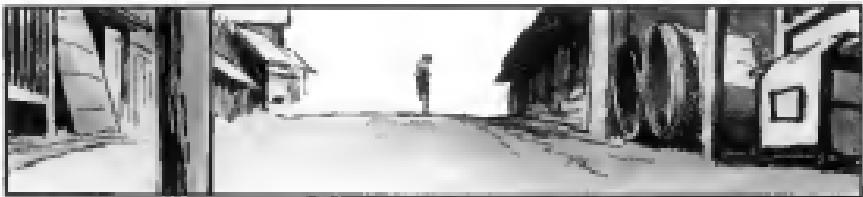


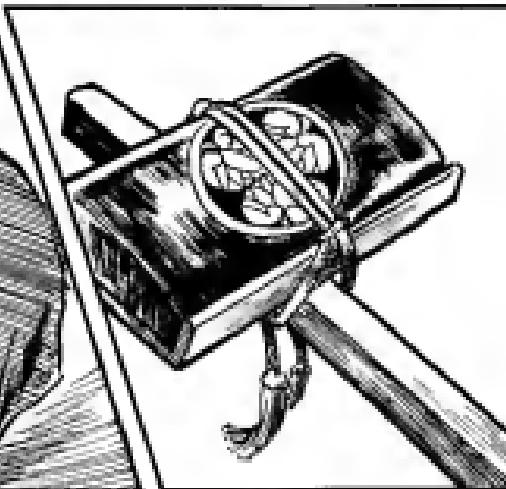


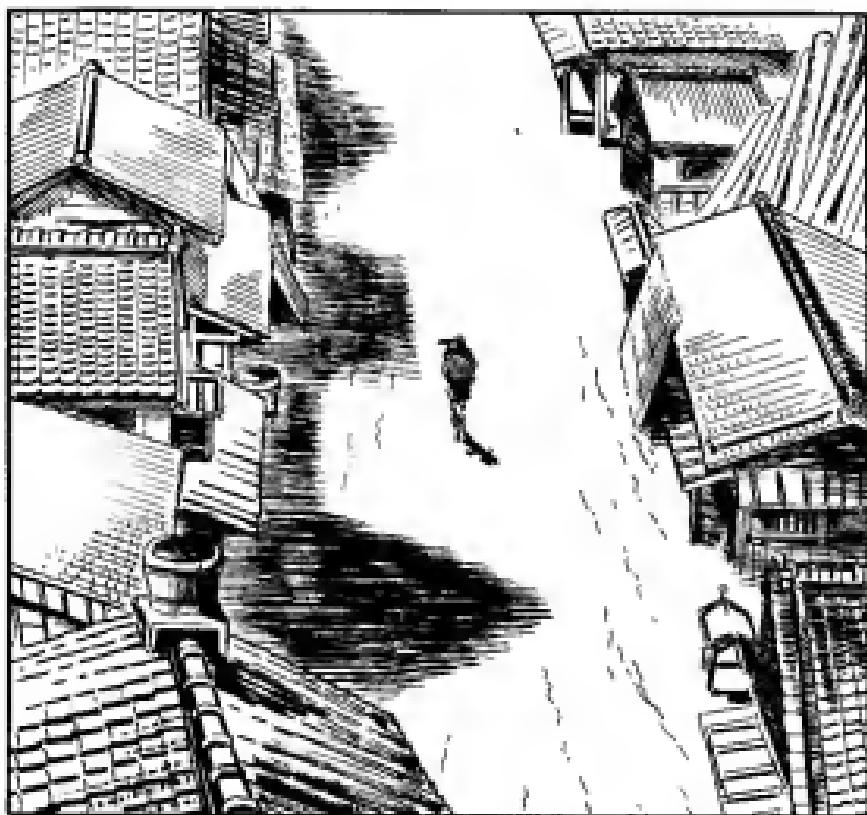


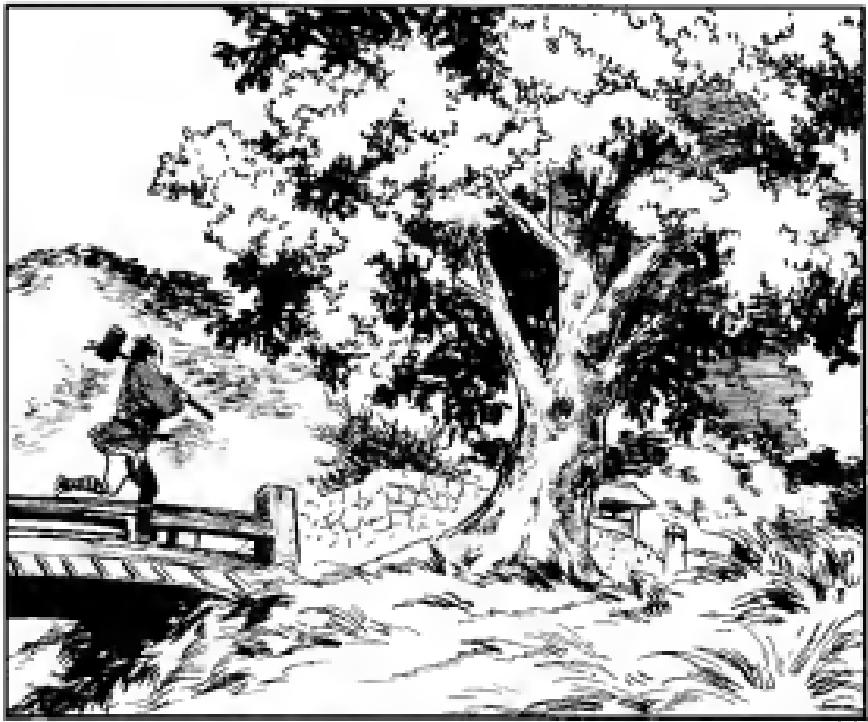










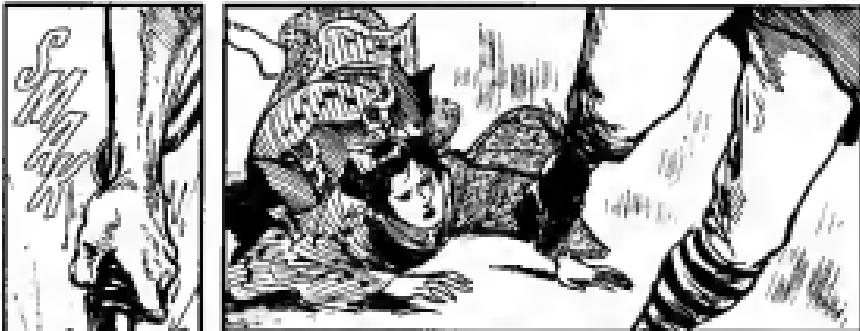














THE O-SANBURY WERE SPECIAL RUNNERS WHO DELIVERED LETTERS WRITTEN BY THE LORD OF A CLAN. A FRESH RUNNER WOULD TAKE THE LETTER BOX EVERY SEVEN, OR SEVEN AND A HALF, DAYS. THESE WERE LETTERS OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITY, DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS FROM A CLAN'S CHIEF TO THE SHOGUN HIMSELF.

THE SANBURY RUNNERS OF KISHI WERE THE MOST FAMOUS OF ALL. SANBURY PASSING OFFICES MARKED WITH RUNNERS WERE MAINTAINED EVERY SEVEN AT ALONG THE TONOBURDO, THE MAIN ROUTE FROM EDO TO OSAKA. THE RUNNERS THEMSELVES GAINED HAVING THE HONORIFIC TITLE O-SANBURY-SAN.



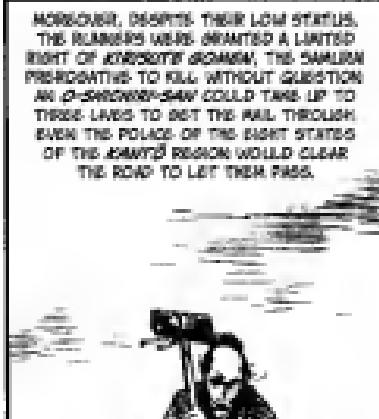
SHIR

THERE WERE THIRTEEN SHIRYOKU
MASSACRE ALONG THE TORNADO
AS IT PASSED THROUGH KISOJI—
IN ATAI, BOYU, CHAMA, ARAI,
MITSURI, KAMAYA, HABICO, YU,
HUMAZU, KANOMI, ODAWARA,
KOBUCHI, AND KAMAWA.

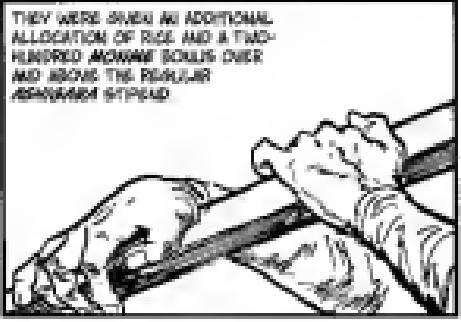
THE OFFICERS WERE GUARDED
BY A LANTERN BEARING THE
HOLLOWED CREST OF THE
TOKUGAWA CLAN, AND HAD
TWO O-SHODORI-SAW IN
CONSTANT READINESS.



THE O-SHODORI-SAW
WERE INHERITALLY
SELECTED FOR THEIR
SWIFTNESS AND
FIGHTING SKILL.
FROM ACROSS THE
ANAT'S ASHIBANDA,
THE LOWEST CLASS
OF SAMURAI WARRIOR.



MOREOVER, DESPITE THEIR LOW STATUS,
THE RUMBLE WOULD GRANT A LIMITED
RIGHT OF JURISDICTION; THE SAMURAI
PRE-ROUTINE TO FILL, WITHOUT QUESTION,
AN O-SHODORI-SAW COULD TAKE UP TO
THREE LINES TO SET THE RAIL THROUGH.
EVEN THE POLICE OF THE EIGHT STATES
OF THE ANAT REGION WOULD CLEAR
THE ROAD TO LET THEM PASS.



THEY WERE GIVEN AN ADDITIONAL
ALLOCATION OF RICE AND A TWO-
HUNDRED MOUNTAIN BOLTS OVER
AND ABOVE THE REGULAR
ASHIBANDA STRIPES.

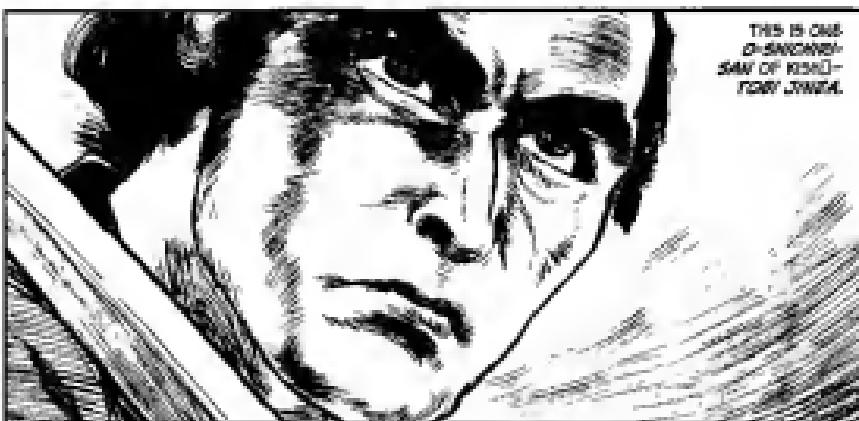


AFTER ALL, THE
O-SHOKOJI-SAN OF KOSAI
CARRIED THE
CREST OF THE SHOGUN
HIMSELF ON THEIR
SHOULDERS.

INEVITABLY, SOME
O-SHOKOJI-SAN
HOUSED THEIR
PRIDE.



IN TIME, WORD THAT
AN O-SHOKOJI-SAN
WAS COMING COULD
CAUSE PANIC. TO AVOID
THE CURSE, DON'T TOUCH
THE IDOL. SO THE SAYING
GOES AND INDEED, PEOPLE
WAITED BEHIND CLOSED
DOORS FOR THE
RUMMERS TO PASS.



THIS IS ONE
O-SHOKOJI-SAN
FROM JUNNA.



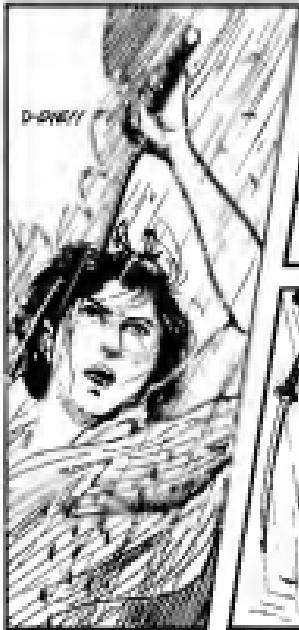


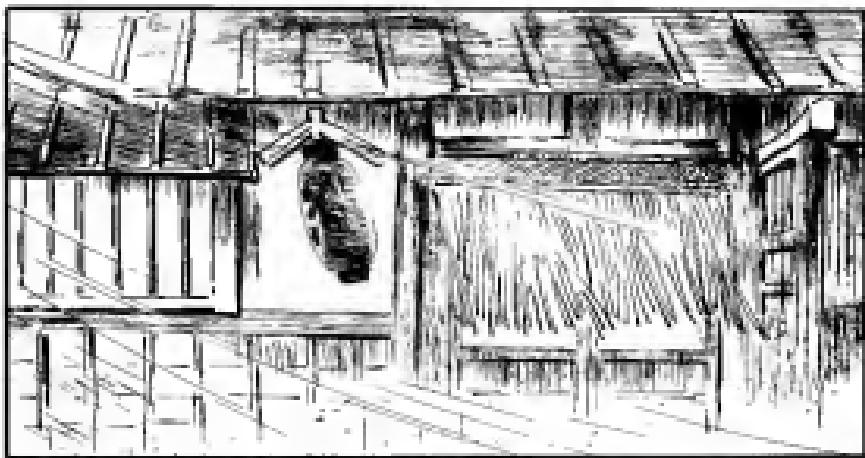
























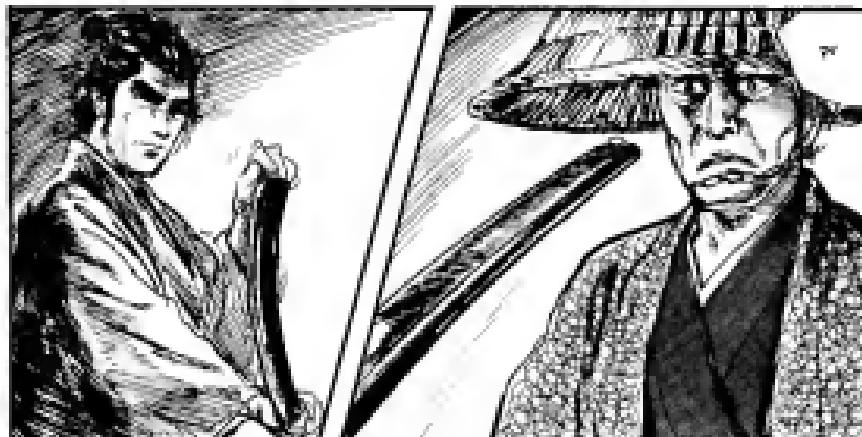
WHO IS
THE MASTER
OF THIS
HOUSE?

WE'RE
ARMING THIS
PLACE.















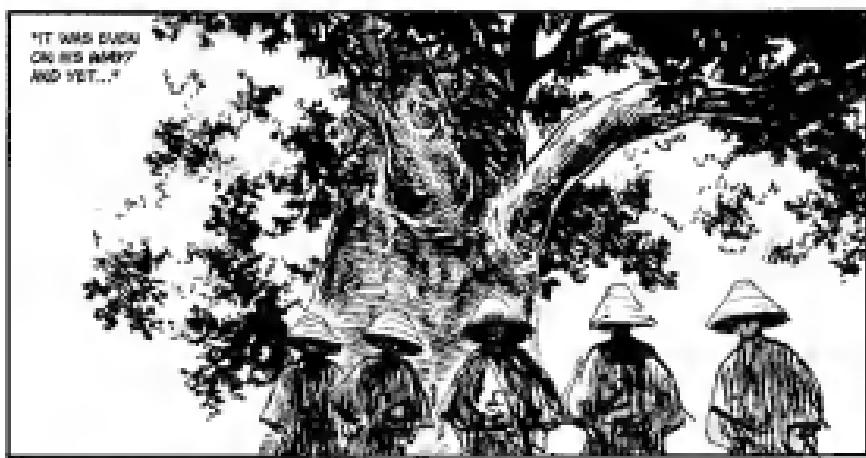


















"I HAD, OF COURSE,
HE AND HIS DUTIES,
ACTS OF THEM, EVEN
I UNDERSTAND THAT
MUCH."



"THAT'S WHY I'D ALWAYS
WAITED, AGAINST ENDURANCE,
ALL THOSE LONG DAYS AND
WEEKS WHEN HE DROVE
CORN HOME.

"THAT WAS
OUR LIFE."



"BUT THIS WAS
DIFFERENT."

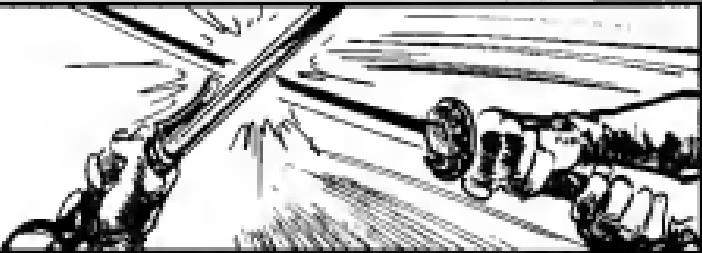
"THIS DAY SOMETHING
HIS OWN, FLESH
AND BLOOD,
WAS BETRAYED."



"SOMEBODY ON DUTY, EVEN A TOTAL STRANGER, EVEN A DAMNED HARBINGER
WOULD STOP TO SAVE
A CHILD'S LIFE."



"I MEAN, THERE'S
NOTHIN' MORE
IMPORTANT THAN
A HUMAN LIFE,
RIGHT?"



"HAD THIS
WAS HIS
OWN SON?"





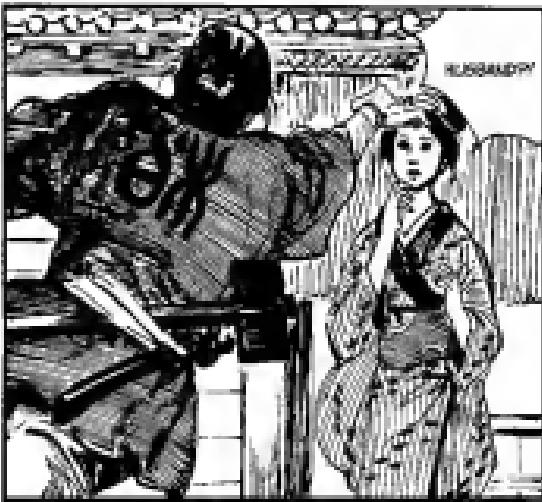
THE SHIP ONLY CARES
THREE THINGS TO DO—TO GET
OUT, TO ARRIVE,
COMES BACK.

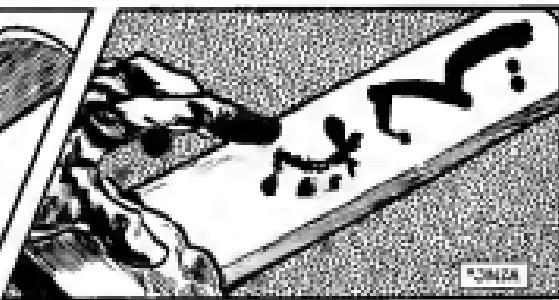
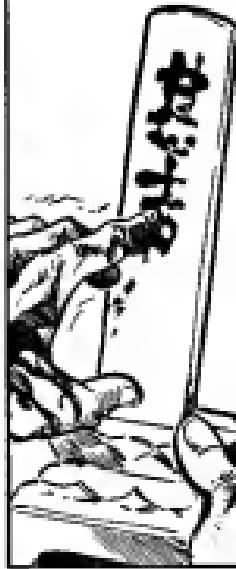














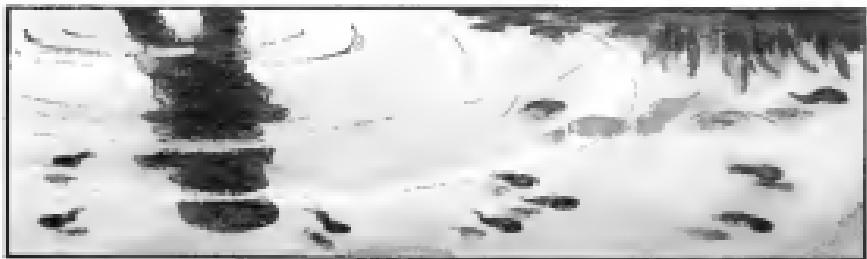
the seventy-first

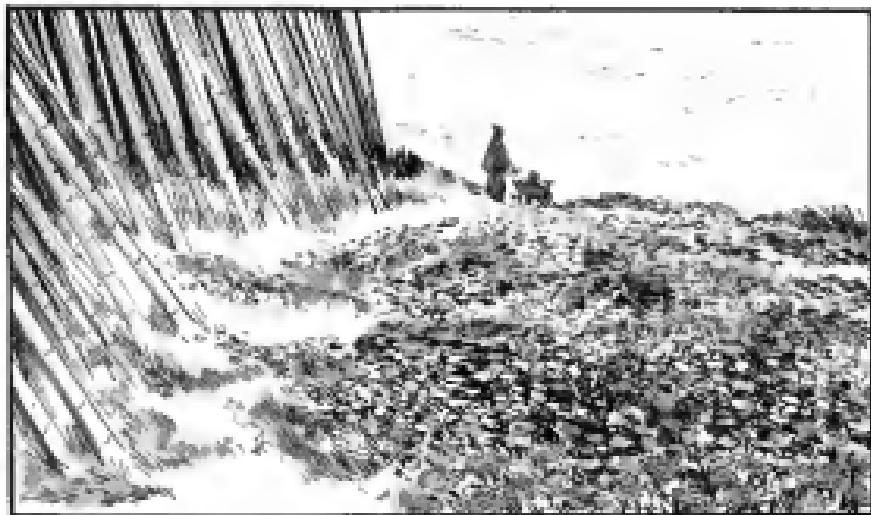
The
Kyūshū
Road





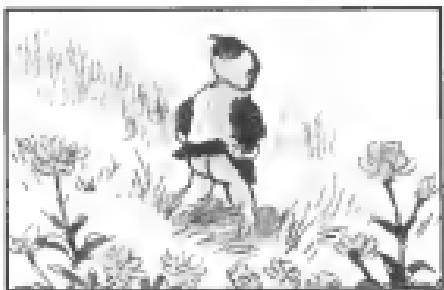


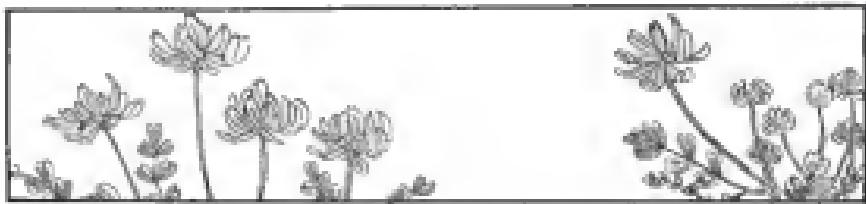




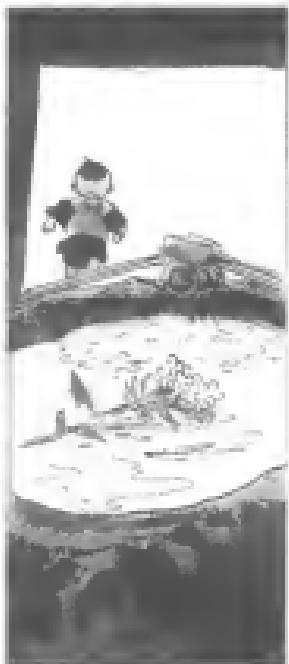
FATHER AND SON, THEY DRIFTED ACROSS
THE LAND, HOW MANY FROSTS HAD SETLED
UNDER THE STARLIGHT SKIES; THEY'D BECOME
WANDERERS ON THEIR PERPETUAL QUEST...



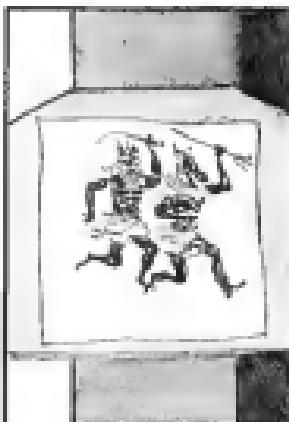
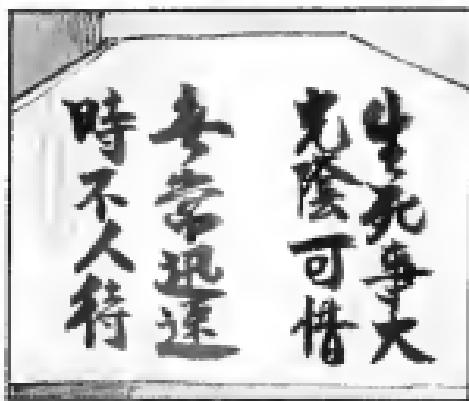
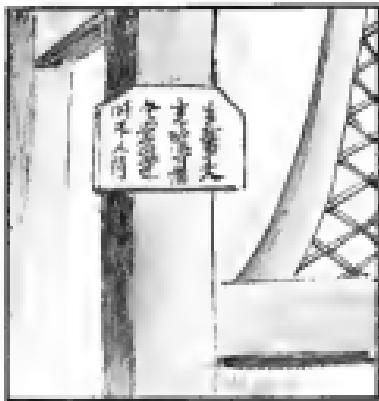
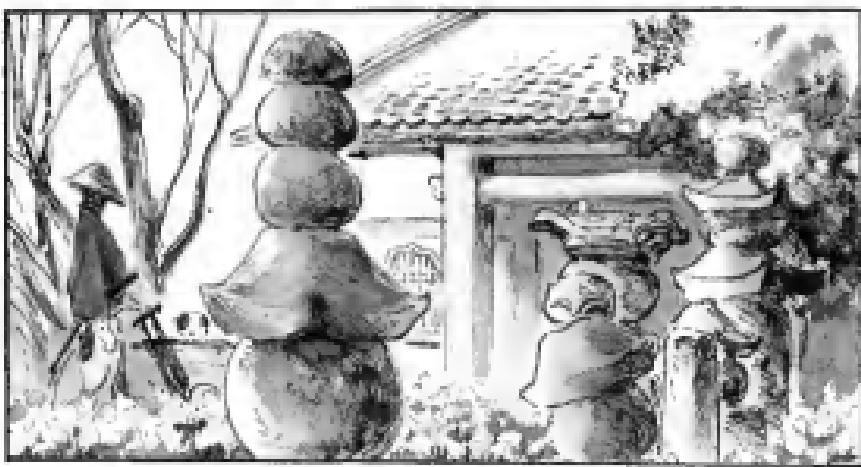




HUNDREDS OF PILGRIMS
FROM THE SOIL OF EDO,
TODAY THEY TRAVELED
THE TSUJIKI HIGHWAY
THROUGH NORTHERN KYŪSHŪ







THE
OX-HEADED
DEMON
CALL HIM
KOBAYAKAWA.



THE
HORSE-HEADED
DEMON
CALL HIM
AKIYAMA.

TOGETHER,
THE GUARDIAN
DEMONS OF
KOBAYAKAWA AND



A TULSHIKA OF GROTESQUE
CALLS FORTE THE CURSE
OF ENMITY, THE TULSIKA
OF DISPESTING FORTRESS,
THE TULSIKA OF ANXIETY,
THE MARK OF THOSE WHO
WOULD SINK NEDO IN LAVA
CUT SHORT.



KNOW ALSO
THAT...
THE TALISMAN OF
ANHIMAON



ALL THOSE WHO WOULD
HAVE JOINED KNOF AND ODE
MURDER THEIR ENEMIES
POSTED THE ADRONWEEZY
ON THE GATES OF
ABANDONED TEMPLES.



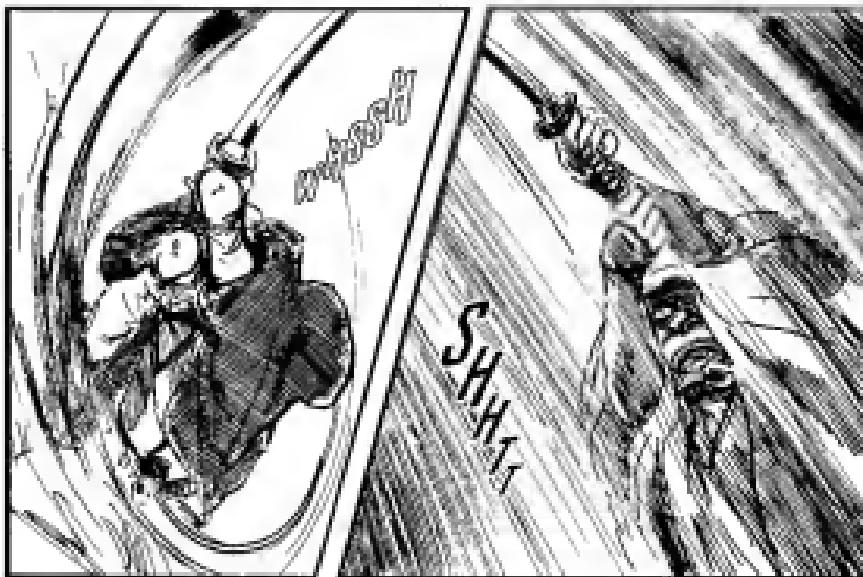
THEY CALLED OUT
TO THAT ILL-FATED
FATHER AND SON,
LIVING AT THE JUNCTION
OF EIGHTED SHIBANO,
THE SIX PATHS AND
THE FOUR LIVES.



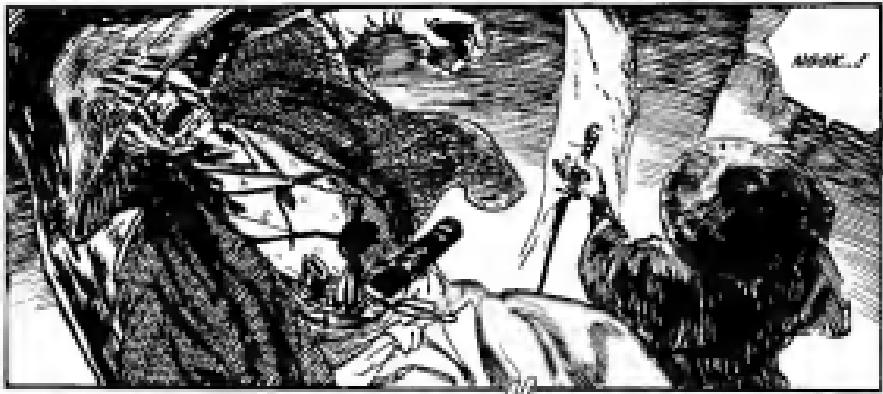
BUT WHEN
THE ASSASSIN
LONG WOLF AND HIS
HEADSMAN PUT UP
THE TALISMAN...





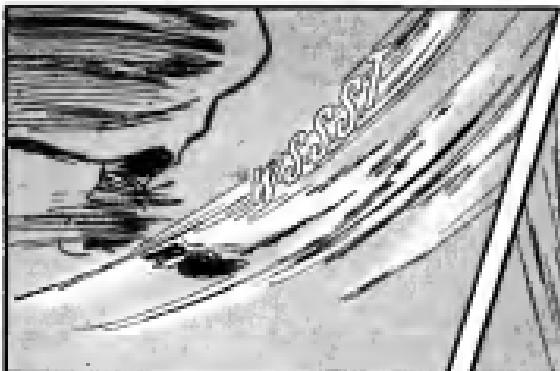
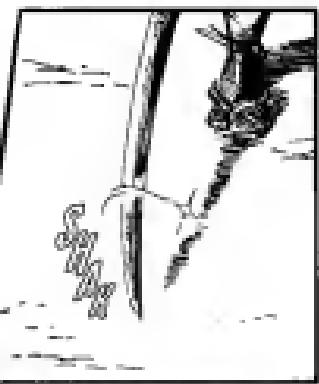










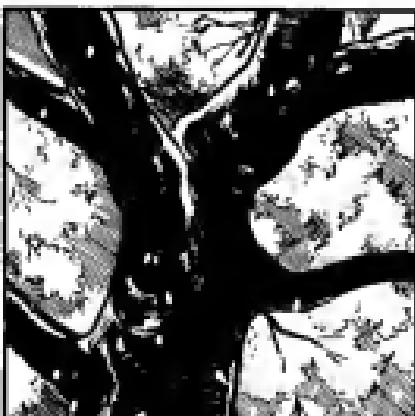
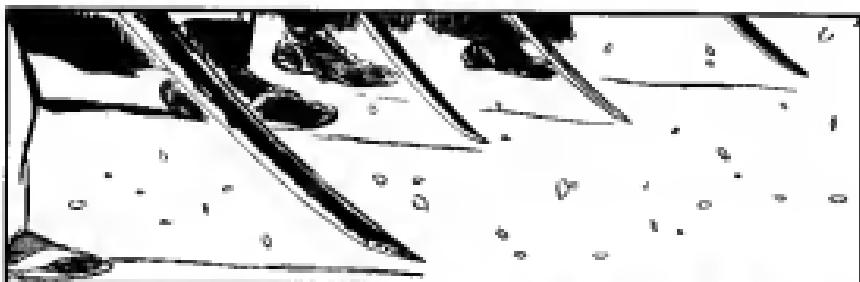


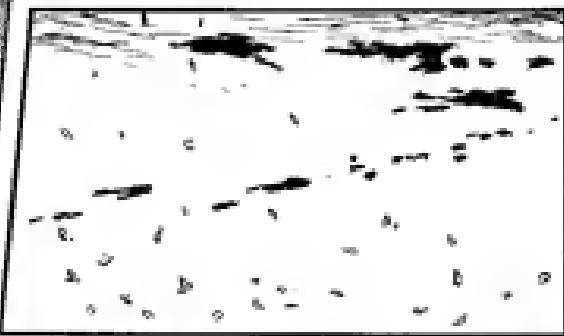
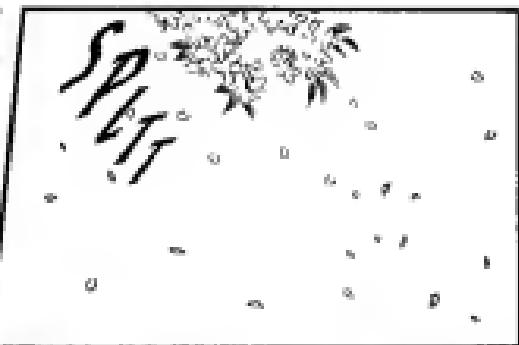






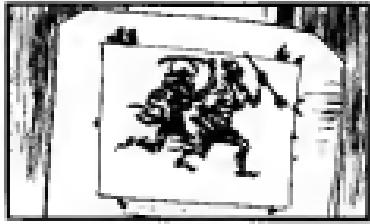
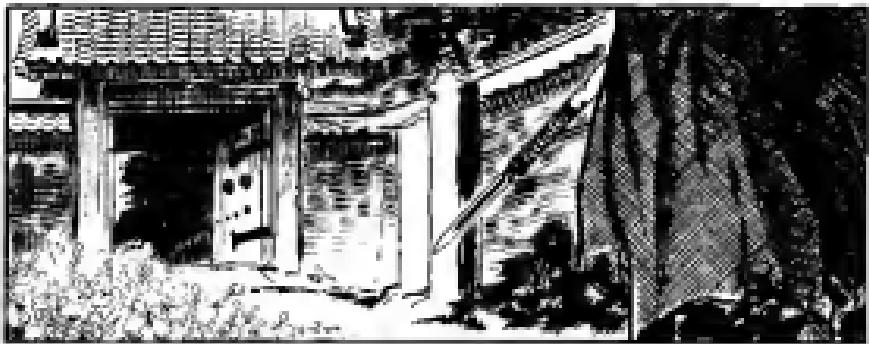














FOR A
SPEARSMAN,
TO KUREDA, SOY
SALUTE. SO DAIRON.
PEOPLE WHISPER
HIS NAME.

WHY WOULD
THE FAMOUS SABURO
HAVE HIS FACE HID
TEN ASSASSIN? WHY
DOES KUREDA WANT
OUR LIVES?



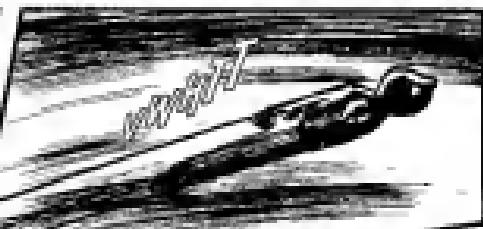




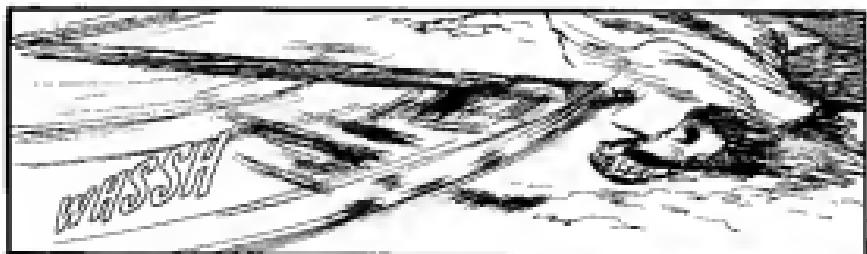




















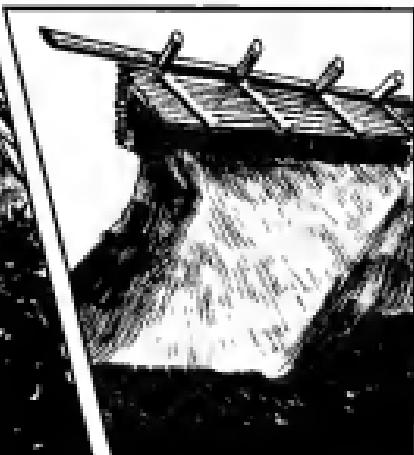
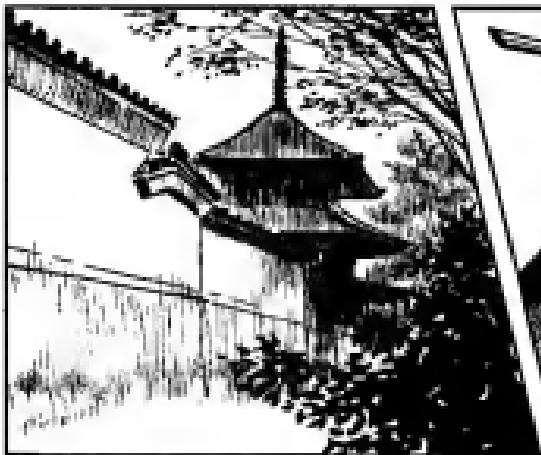
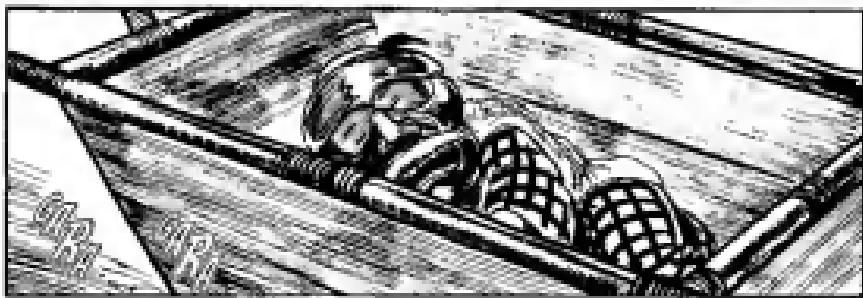


THE WARRIOR CODE OF
THE KURETA CLAN REQUIRES
THIS WHEN WE PERFORM
ASSASSINATIONS FOR OUR
LORD. WE DEEM IT SACRILEGIOUS
TO SHOW AN UNRESPECTFUL
FACE IN DEATH.



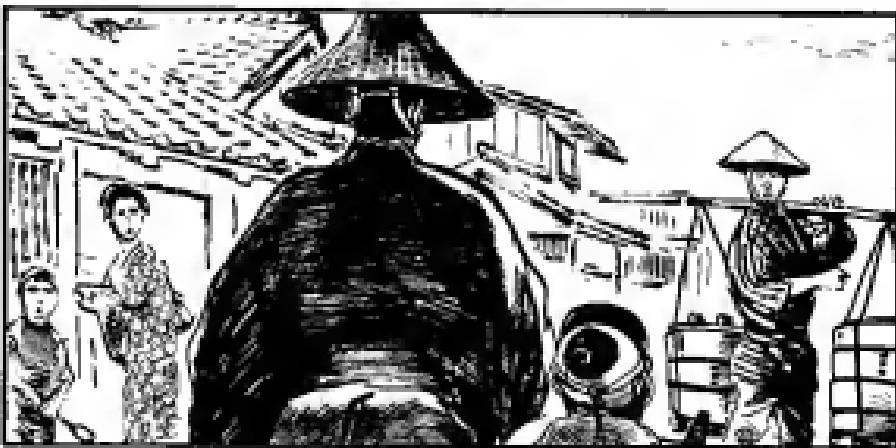
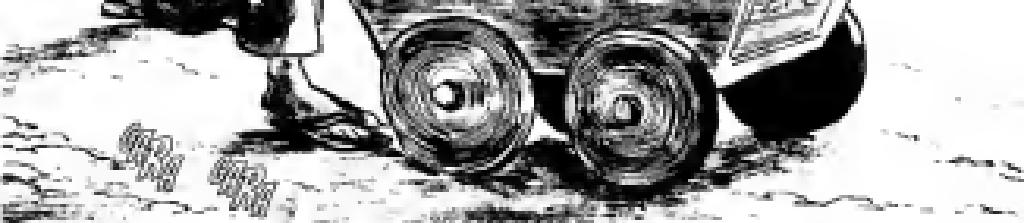


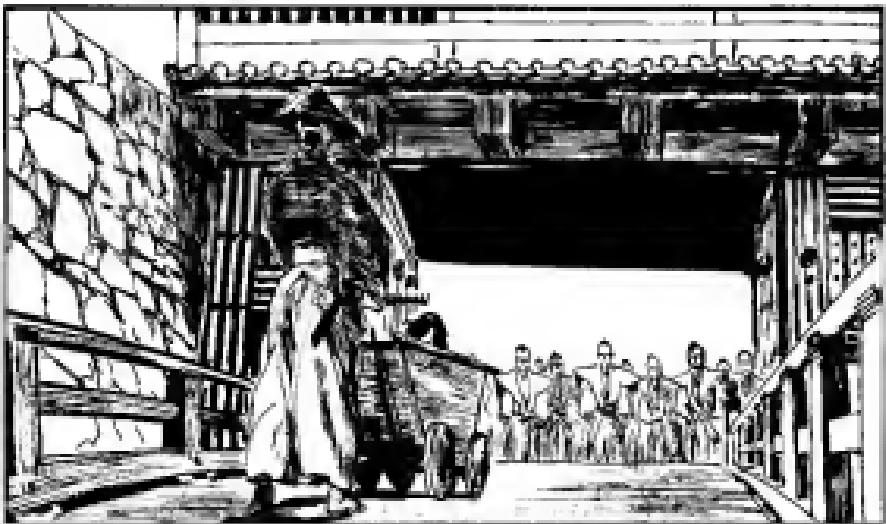




FUKUCHIYA CASTLE IN
CHIBA DISTRICT TOKYO AREA
(320,000 \$22400)

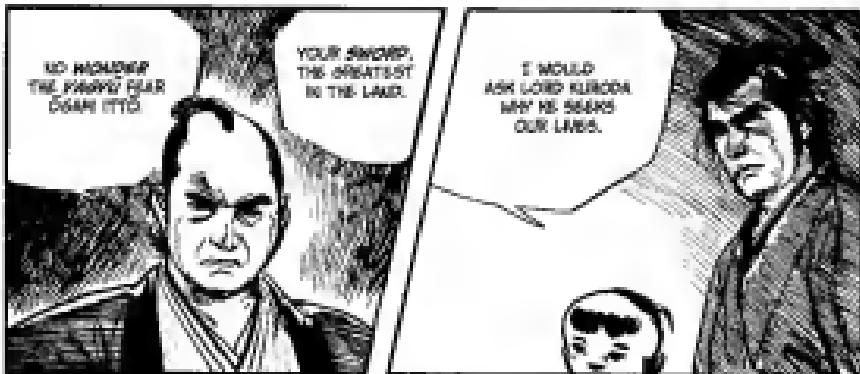




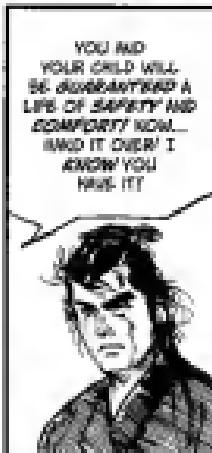


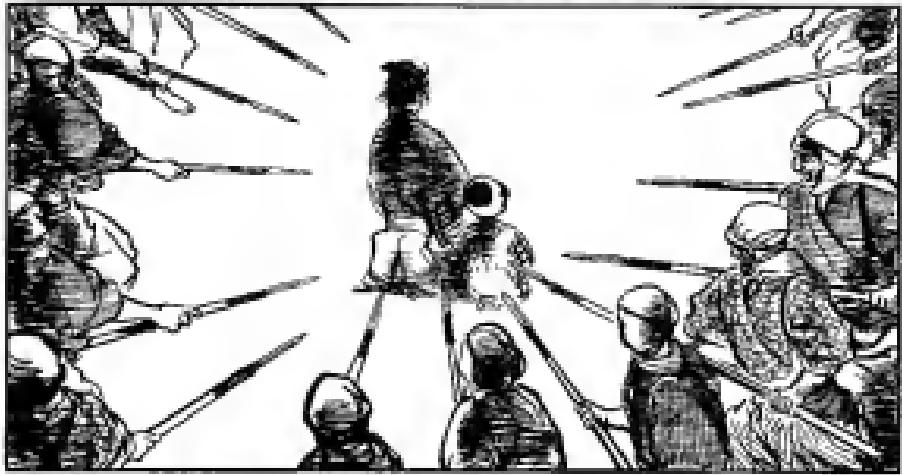
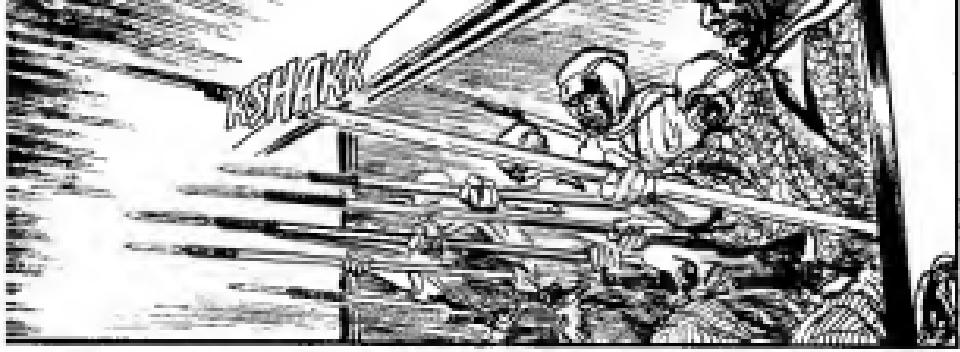




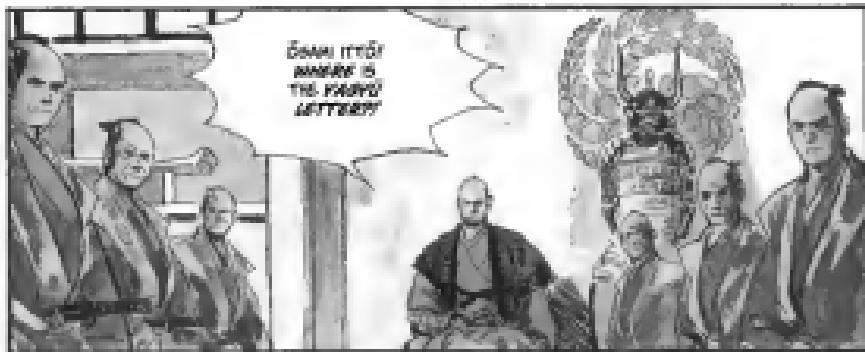






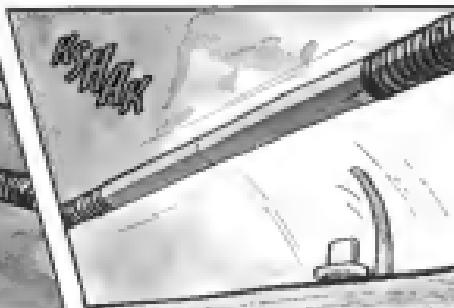
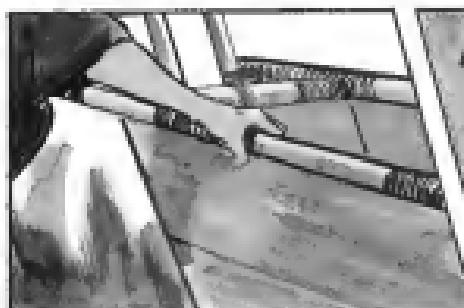


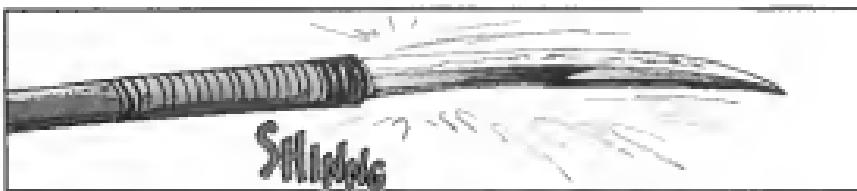










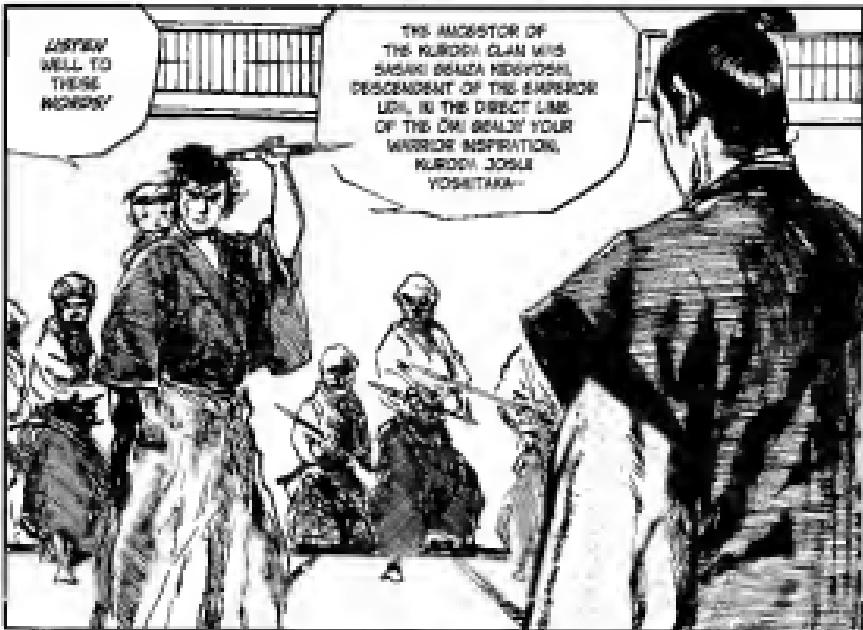












ARTHEW
WELL TO
THESE
WARRIORS!"

THE ANCESTOR OF
THE KURODA CLAN WAS
SASAKI ISSEIYA MITSUYOSHI,
DESCENDANT OF THE EMPEROR
GOZU. IN THE DIRECT LINE
OF THE OGI REALIZE YOUR
WARRIOR INSPIRATION,
KURODA JOSUA
YOSHITAKA!"







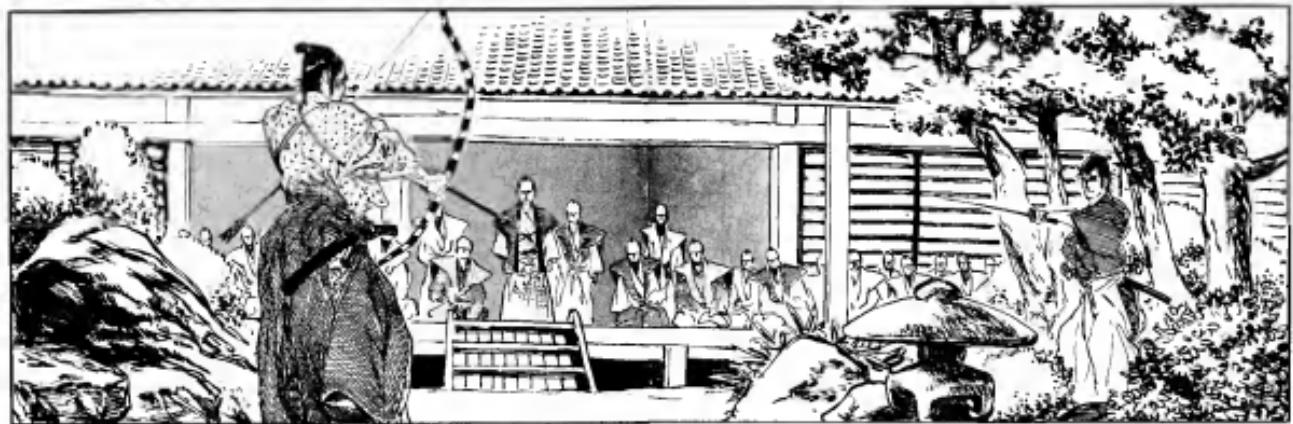


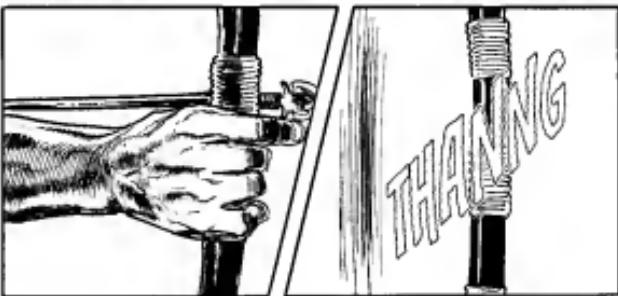


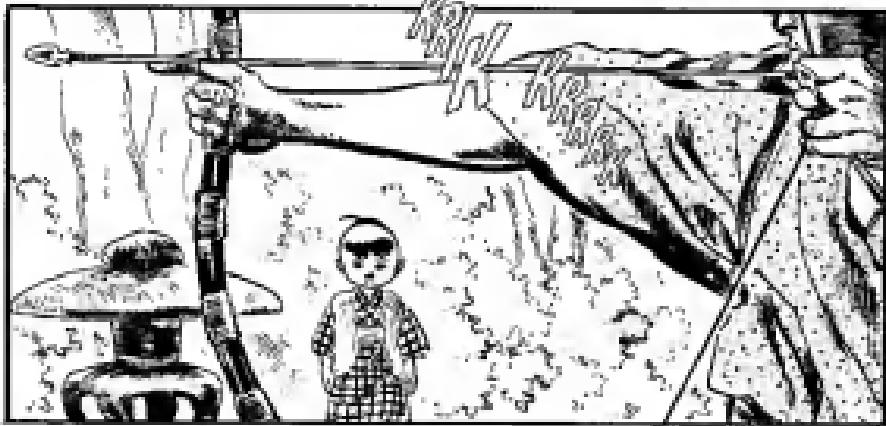
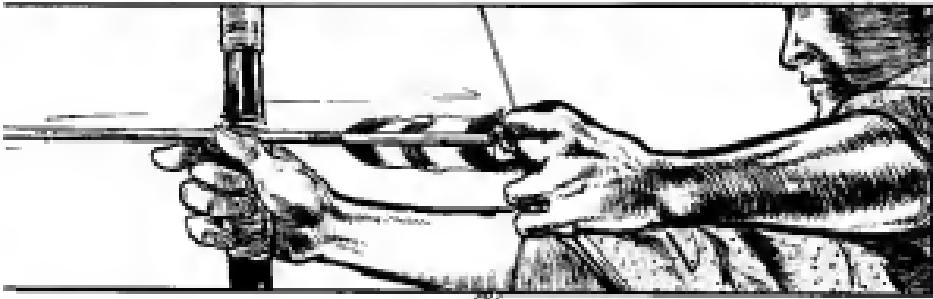








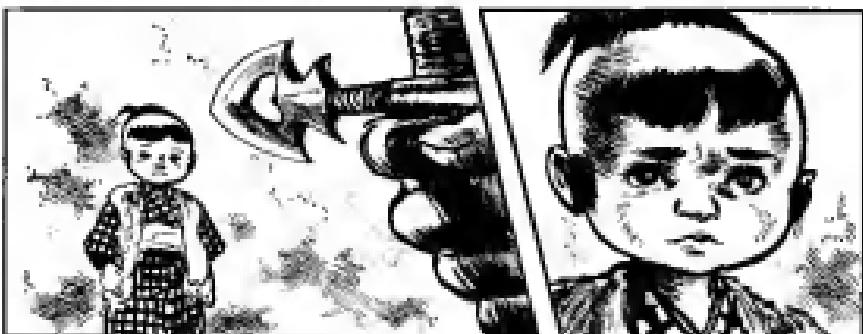












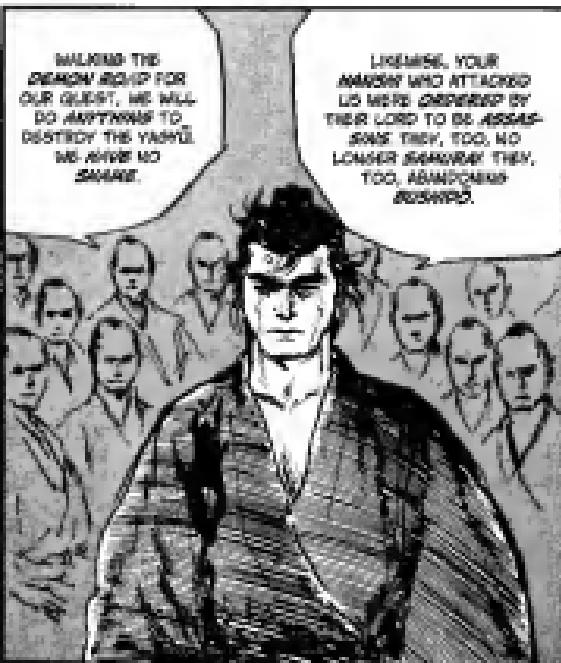




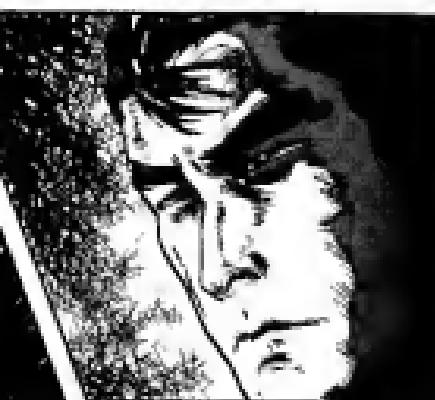






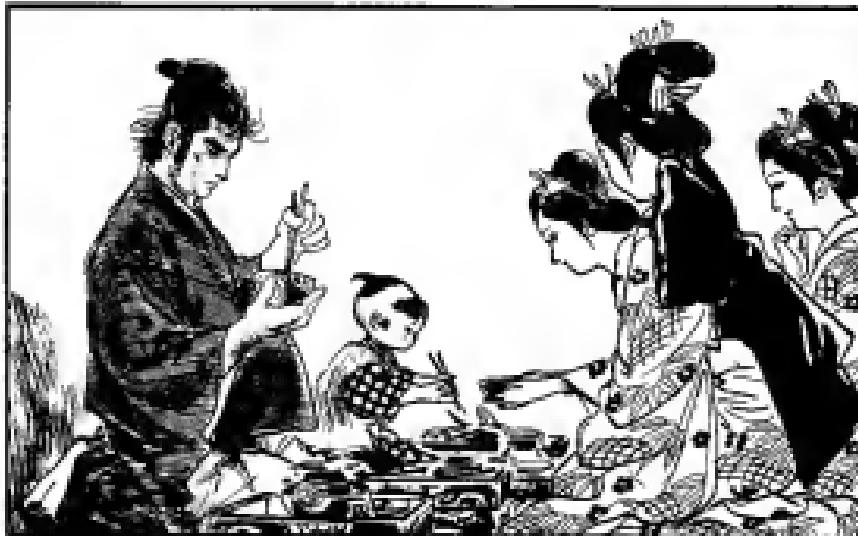


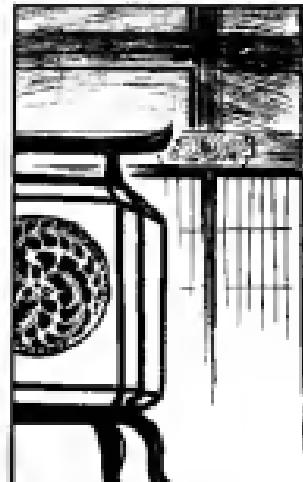
LIREMISE, YOUR
MANOW WHO ATTACKED
US WERE DESTROYED BY
THEIR LORD TO BE ASSAS-
SINE THIS, TOO, NO
LONGER EXISTING, THEY,
TOO, ABANDONED
REWARD.













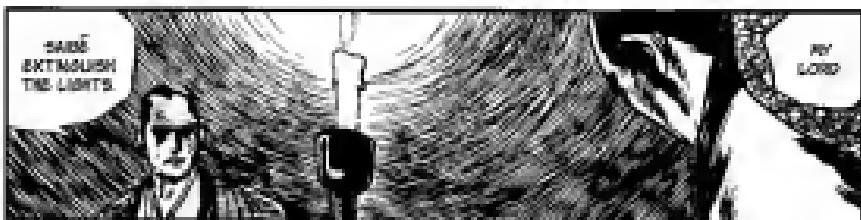


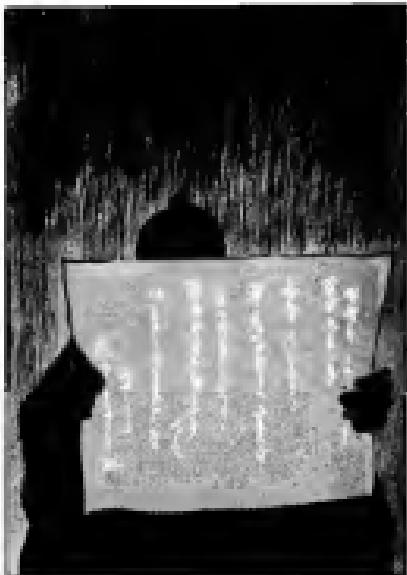
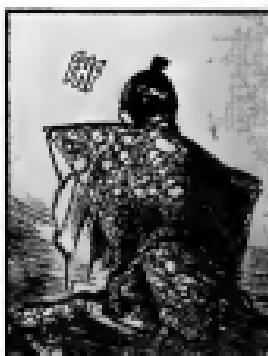


集中医鐵行之

② 横之卷 全印六月前日

上卿・唐橋太輔・吉良昌輝
奉行職事・八島久頭左衛門・吉良昌
弁・小河城城在牛後國ナリ
降城林・勅修寺・軍相・重富・卿
勅使・主・伏見城・參向有
宣言・爲・別狀ニテ報之シテ
志・空保
化・格引事變之早限・打過後
京都府司代
板倉保子守重昌





I HAVE
ALREADY
ASSESSURED
THAT MUCH.

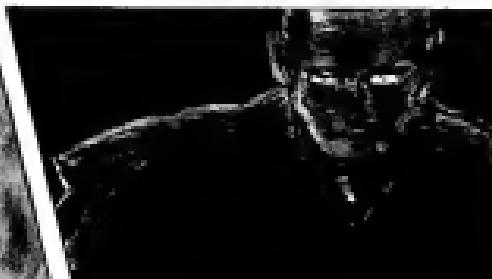
SOME FORM
OF PROSPHEROUS
FUNGUS HAS BEEN GROUND
AND MIXED INTO THE INK. MOST SUCH
FLUAMUS ABSORB LIGHT, BUT THE
INGREDIENTS ADDED TO THIS INK
SEEM TO ABSORB IT, AND BECOME
A LIGHT SOURCE OF
THEIR OWN.

THE INK
ABSORBS
LIGHT BY DAY,
AND RELEASES IT
MANI IN THE DARK
AS GLOWING
LETTERS.



AS IF
YOU EXPRESS
ME, DUNA
IT'S.

...DUNA



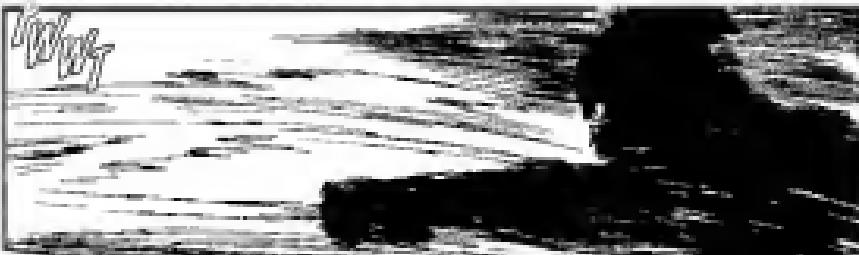
EVERY YEAR, AT THE SIXTH HOUR
ON NEW YEAR'S DAY, WE PURCHASED,
BEGINNING WITH THE THREE SANPO CLAIMS, SO
TO EDO CASTLE TO OFFER OUR RESPECTS TO THE
SHOGUN'S FAMILY. AT THAT TIME, WE RECEIVED A BLOCK
OF RAYON IMPREGNATED WITH THE HOLLOWCHUCK CREST OF
THE TOKUGAWA. IT IS THE KAMIKI WHO NAME THAT RAY.
AND, AS YOU HAVE FOUND, IT IS HE THAT GLOWS IN
THE DARK. ALL OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN
THE PURCHASED AND THE SHOGUN MUST BE
WRITTEN WITH IT. HOW LIKE THE PURCHASED
COMES UP WITH SUCH A SUSTAIN TRICK!

ONE DAY I CHANCED
TO NOTICE THAT A
LETTER I HAD WRITTEN
WAS GLOWING IN THE
DARK. SURPRISED, I
INVESTIGATED
FURTHER

UNFORTUNATELY
THAT WASN'T OFFICIAL
CORRESPONDENCE,
AND THUS PROVED
NOTHIN'

BUT THIS...
THIS IS DIRECT FROM
THE PURCHASED TO
THE SHOGUN, AND IT
CONTAINS A CODE THAT
EXPOSES A DISMAYING
SECRET...











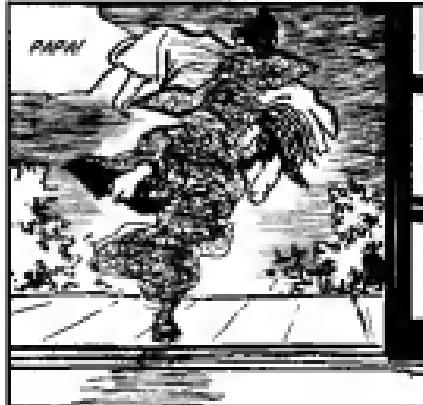
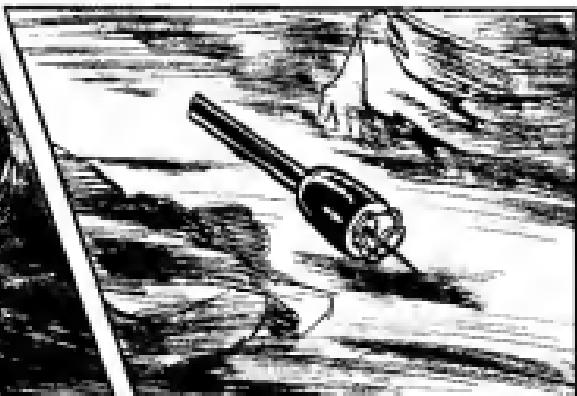
IT IS SAID THAT
THE ASSASSIN SPIES
HEAD AWAY INTO EVERY
WIND, SETTLING THERE
FOR ASSASSINAGE

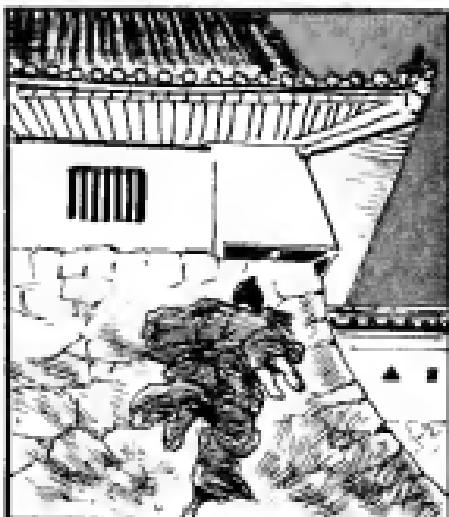
THE DEDICATION OF THE
SAITO-NI ANARCHY PASSING
THEIR PASSION FROM FATHER TO
SON, SON TO ASSASSIN WHO
WOULD SUSPECT A FAMILY THAT'S
LIVED THERE FOR DECADES, EAGER
FOR CHAOTICNESS THEY PUT DOWN
THEIR ROOTS, WEDDING, WITHERING,
ASSASSINAGE AGAIN LIKE THE
GRASS... SUCH IS YOUR
SAITO-NI ANARCHY

HARPOON!
SAKAMI! YOU PUT
DOWN YOUR ROOTS
IN ASSASSIN HIGH—
YOU'RE ASSASSINAH
GROUNDS!

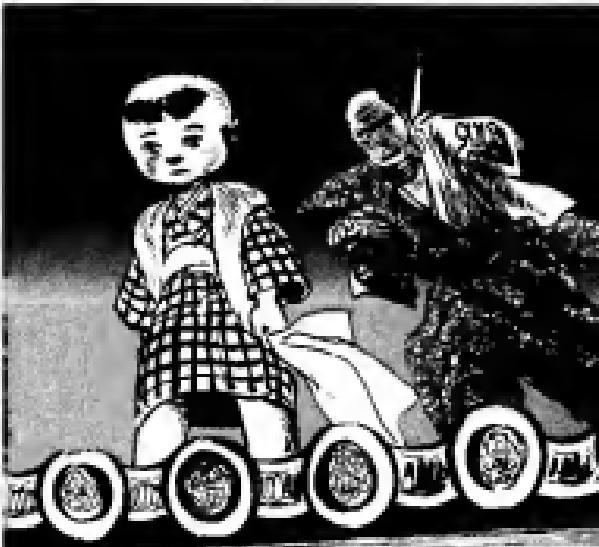
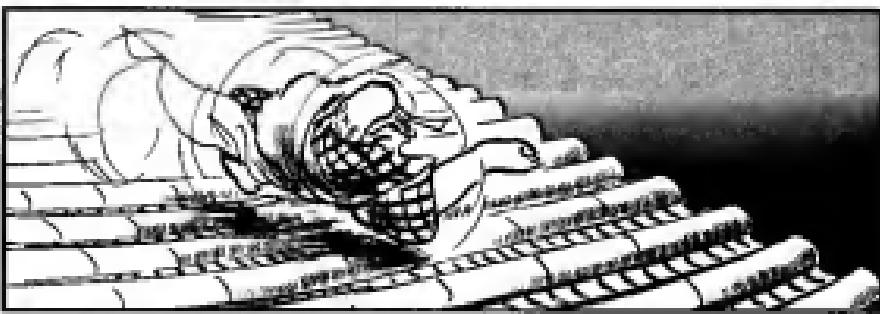
YOU HOLD
THE FLOOR,
OUR FIGHT
LETTED!

DARK
KNIGHT

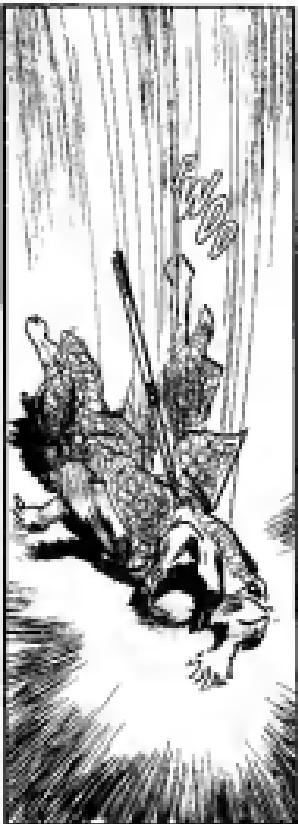










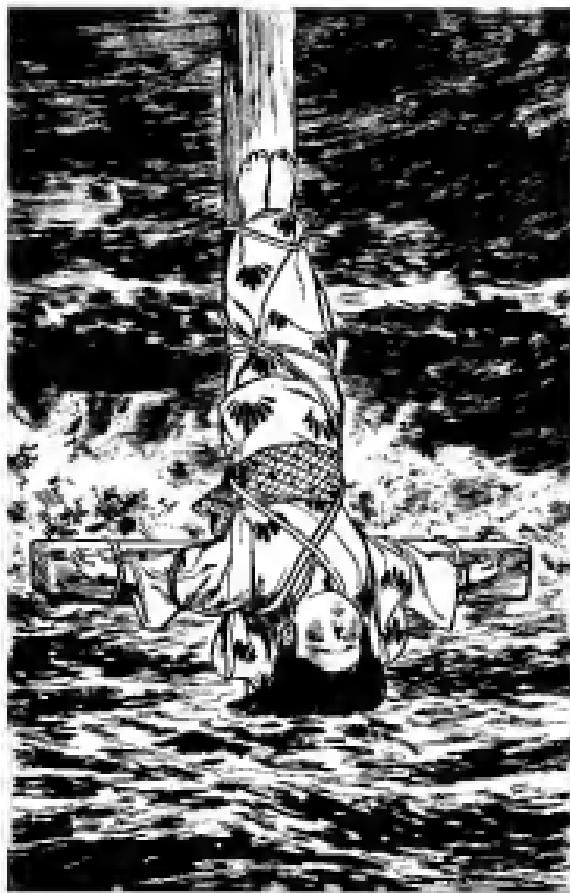




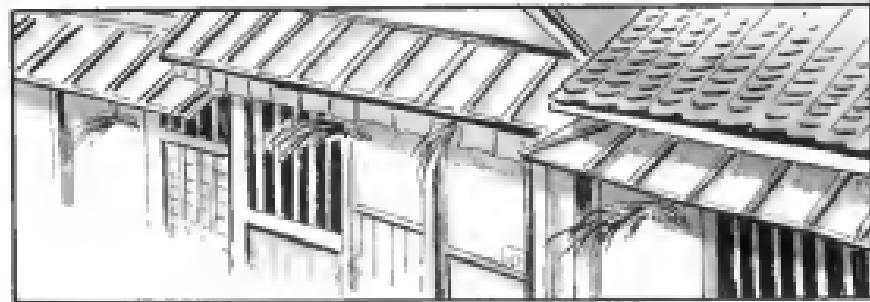
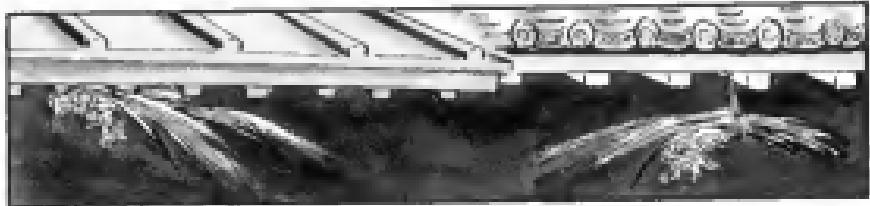
THIS YEAR, KURODA SHINTADA,
LORD OF KURODA SHIMA, PASSED
AWAY OF A SUDDEN ILLNESS
SO THE RECORDS SAY...

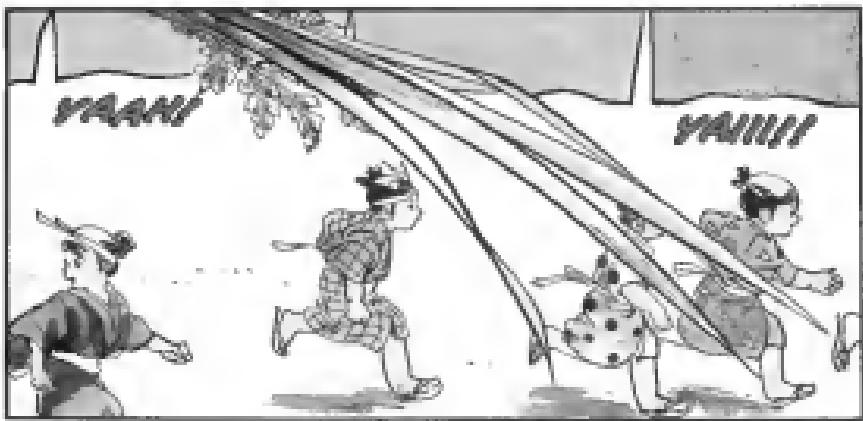
the seventy-second

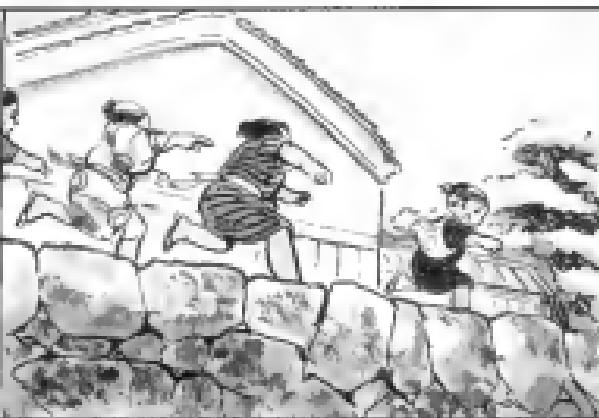
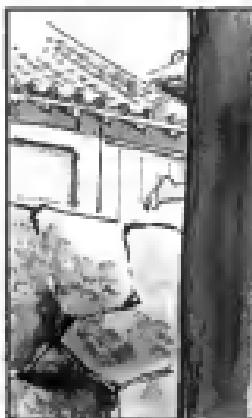
Day
of the
Demons



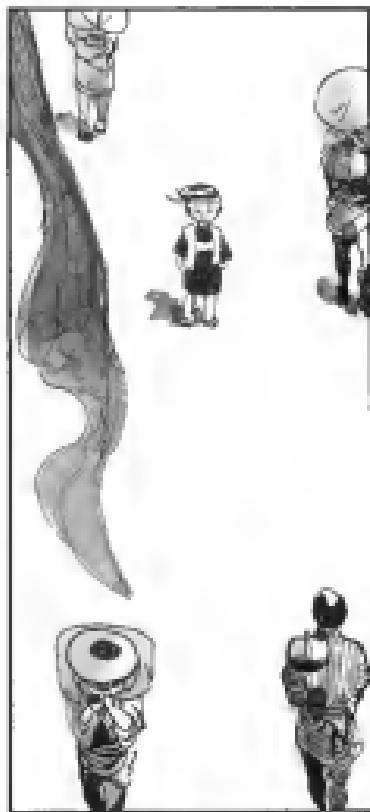




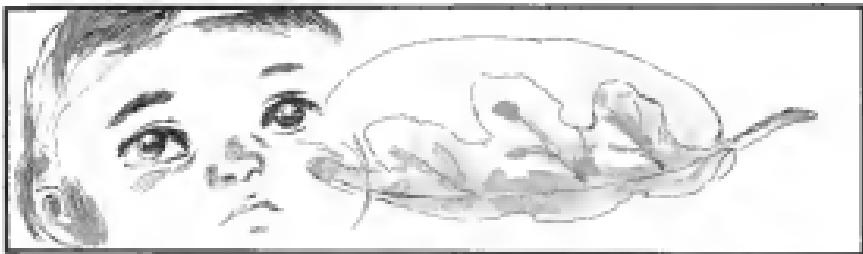


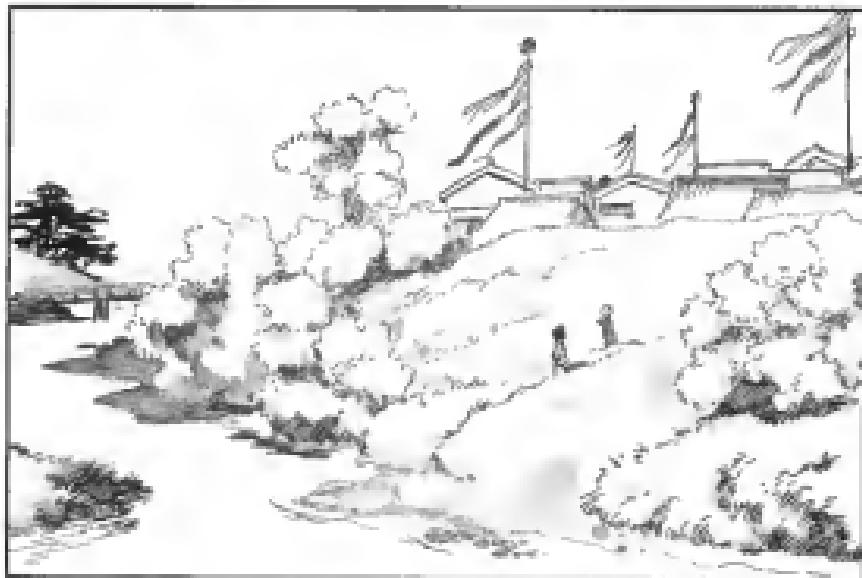
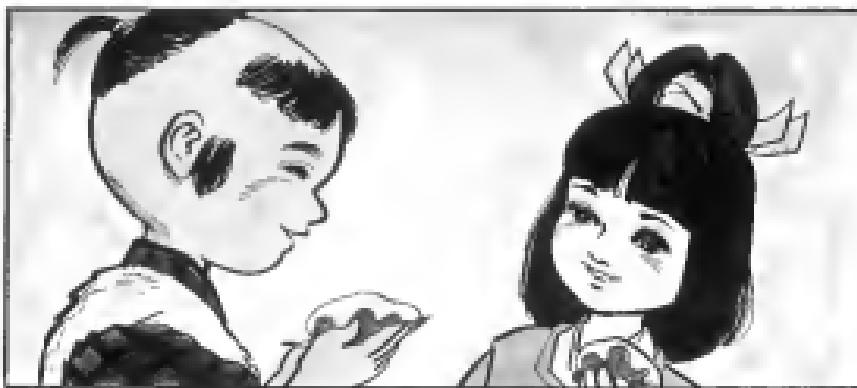


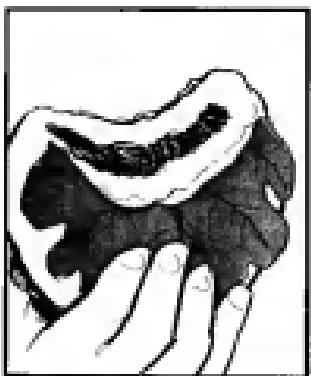


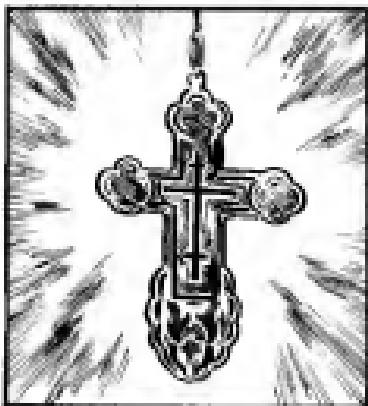




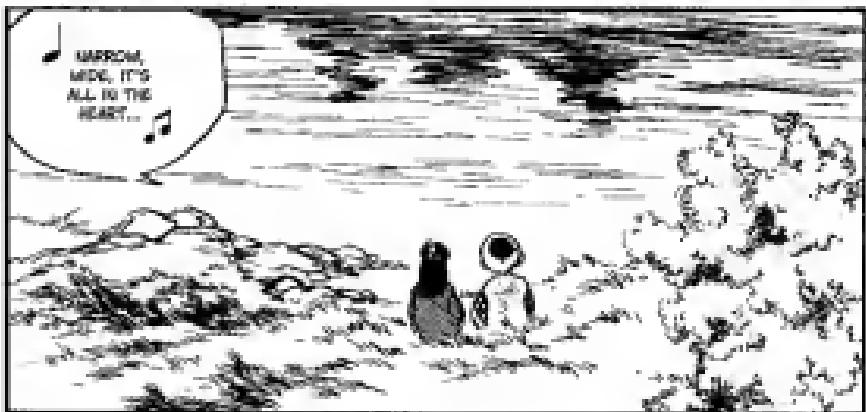
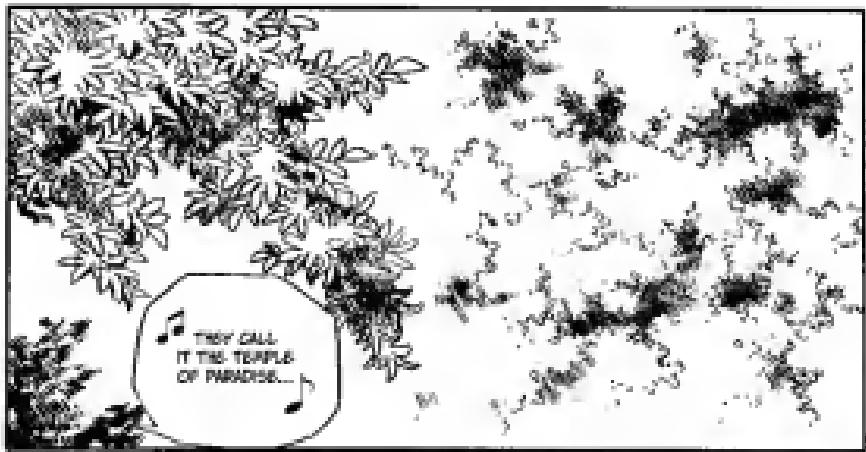


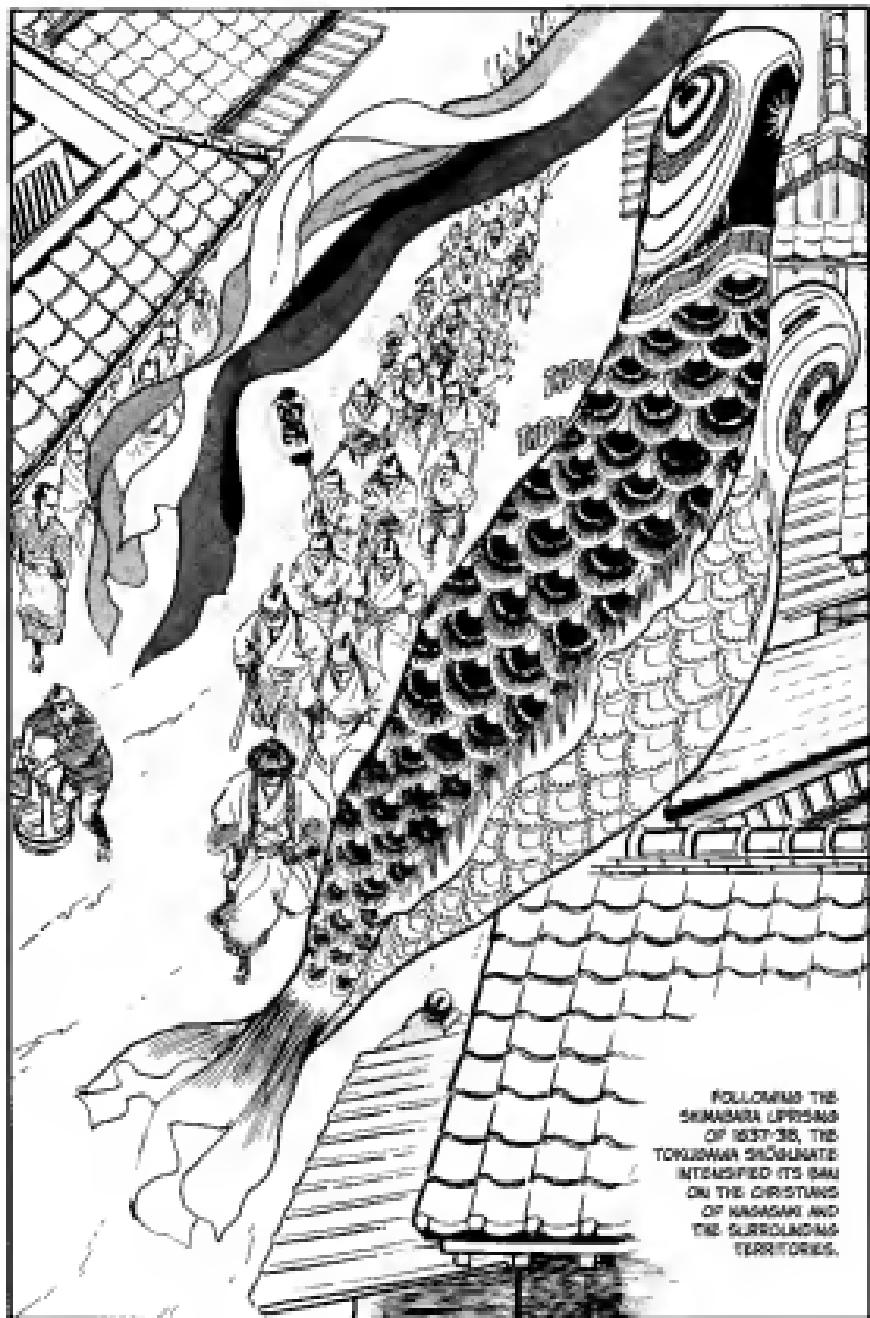








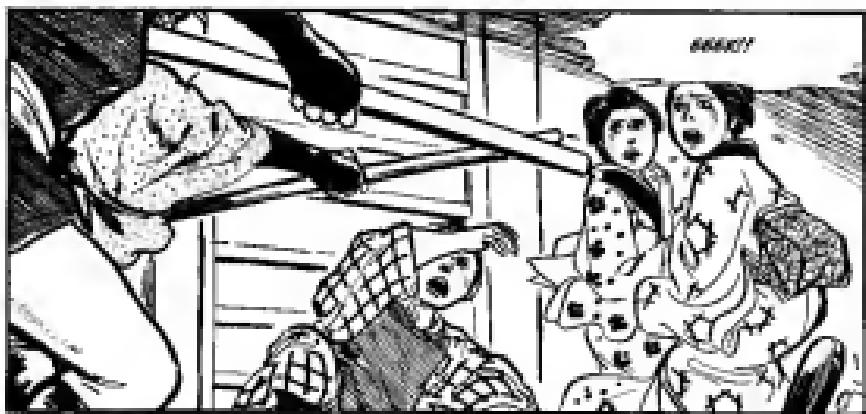




FOLLOWING THE SHIMABARA UPRISE OF 1637-38, THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE INTRODUCED ITS OWN ON THE CHRISTIANS OF NAGASAKI AND THE SOUTHERN TERRITORIES.







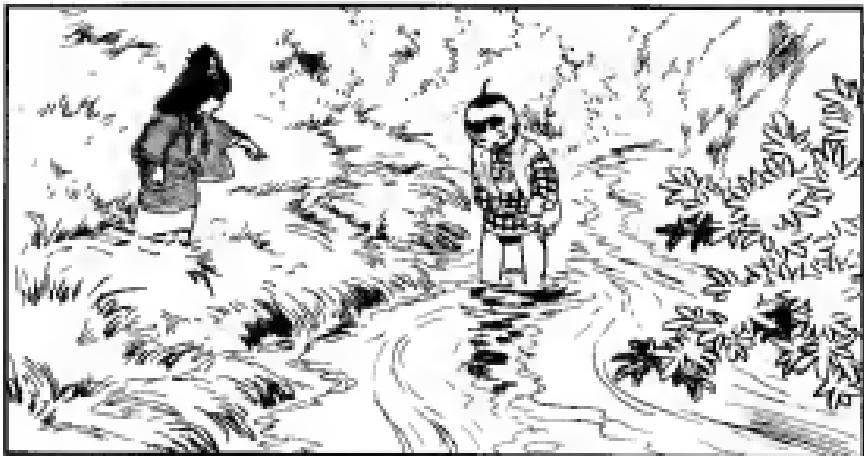


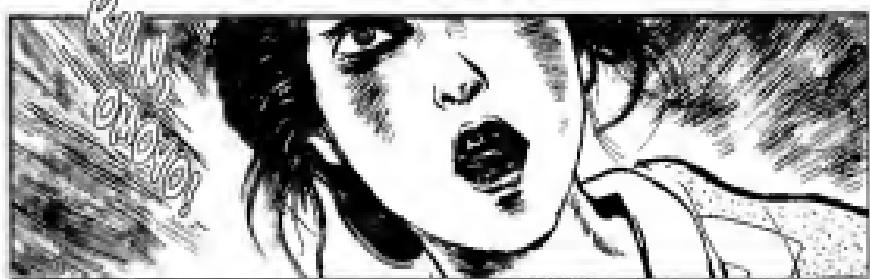


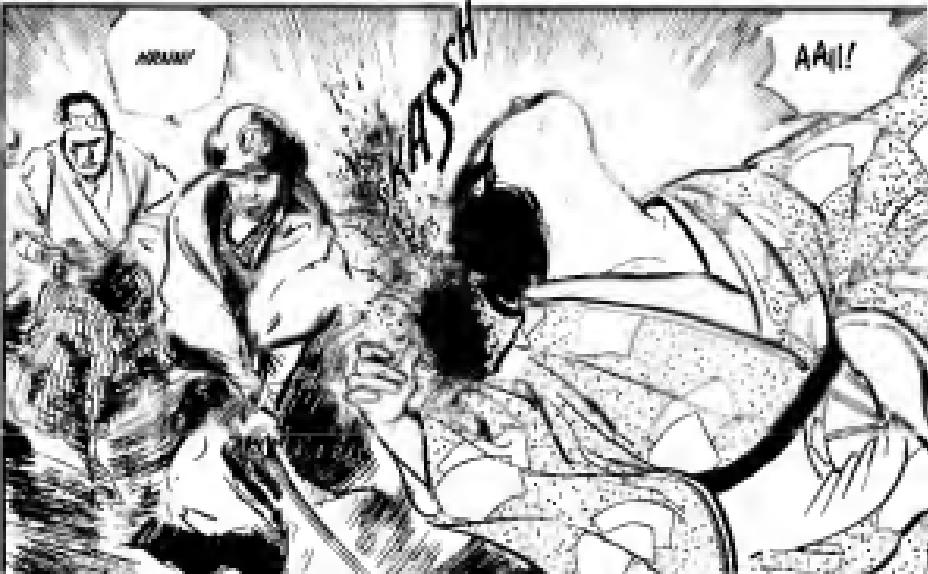
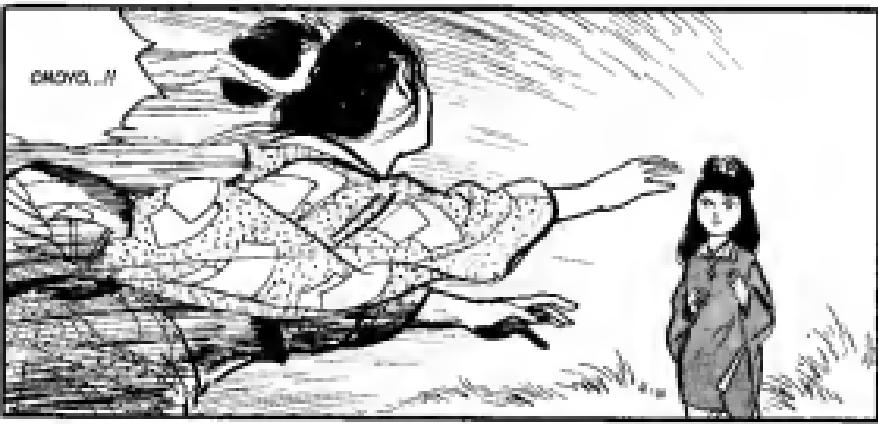
IN RESPONSE TO THE
DESPONDENT OPPRESSION
AND PERSECUTION,
CHRISTIAN BELIEVERS
MADE A SHOW OF
RETURNING TO
BUDDHISM.





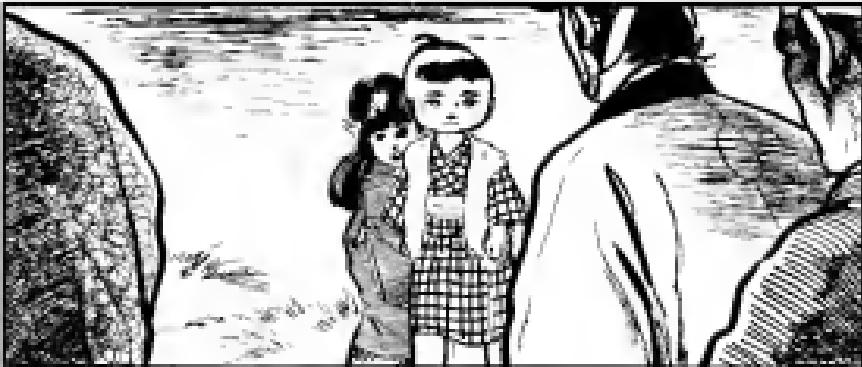
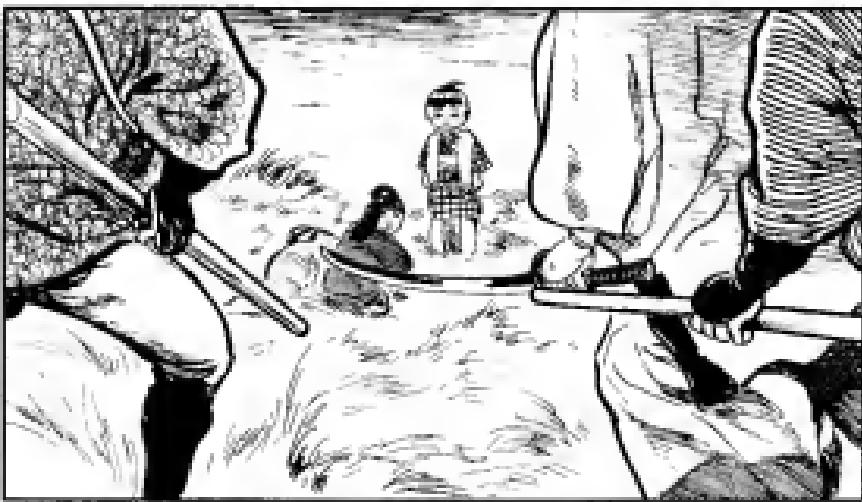








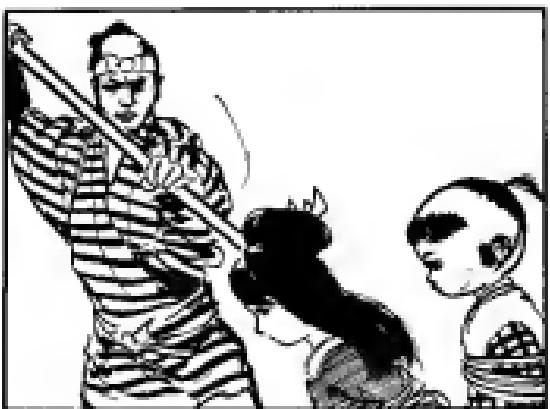




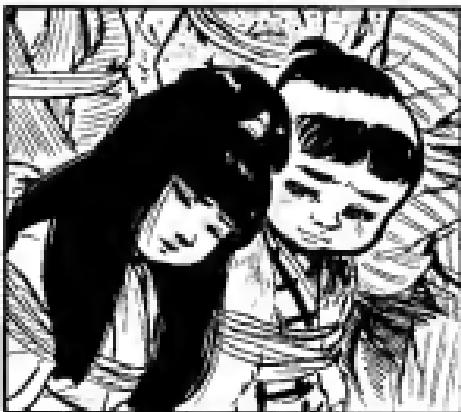


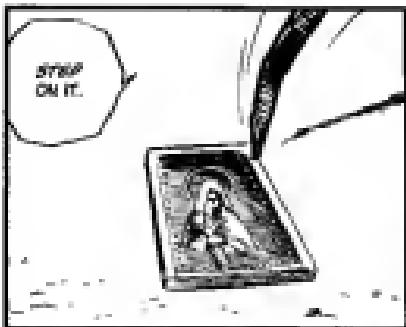


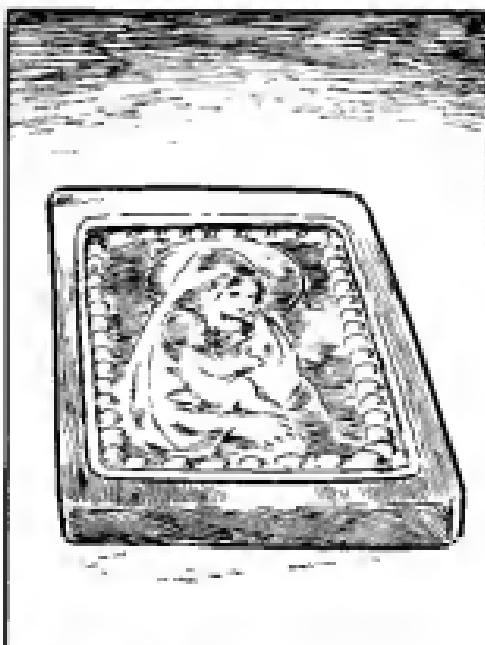


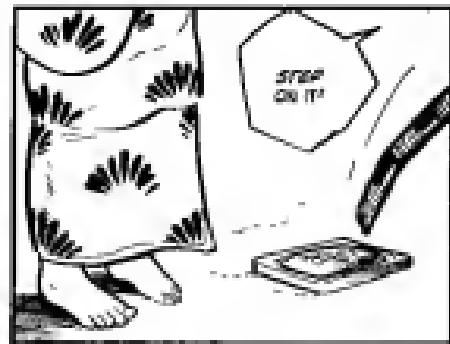
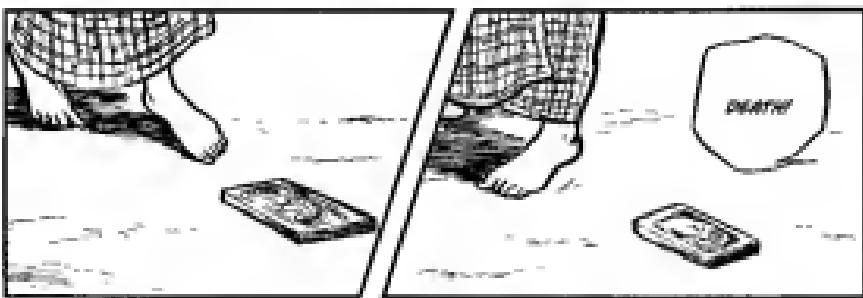
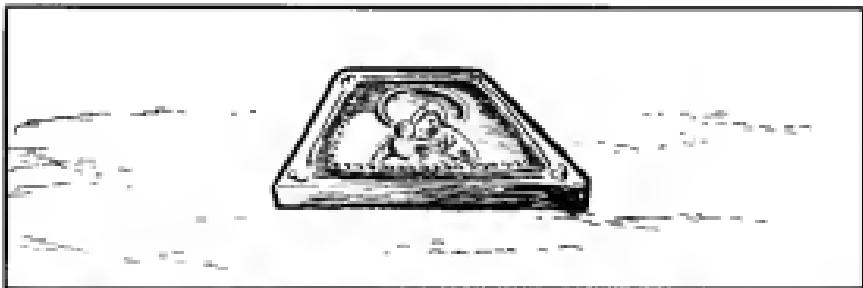


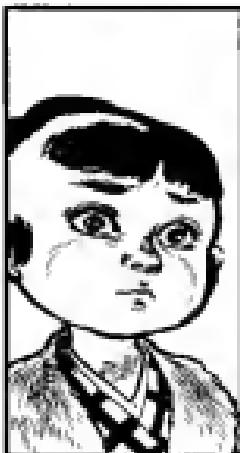








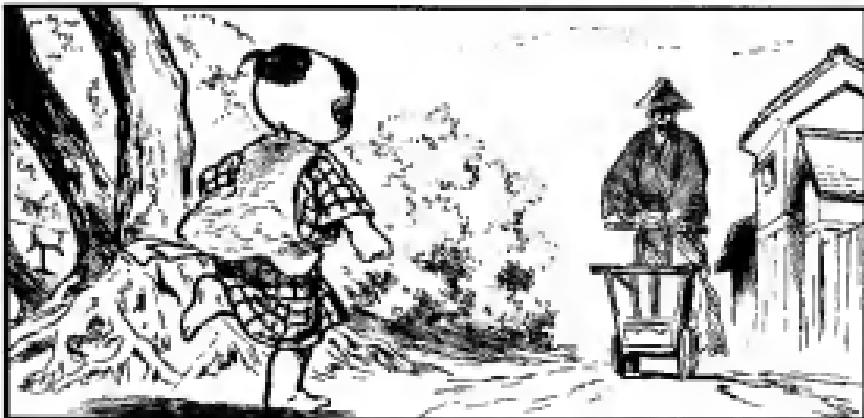
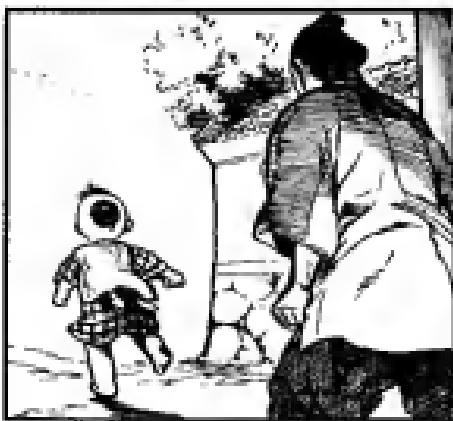


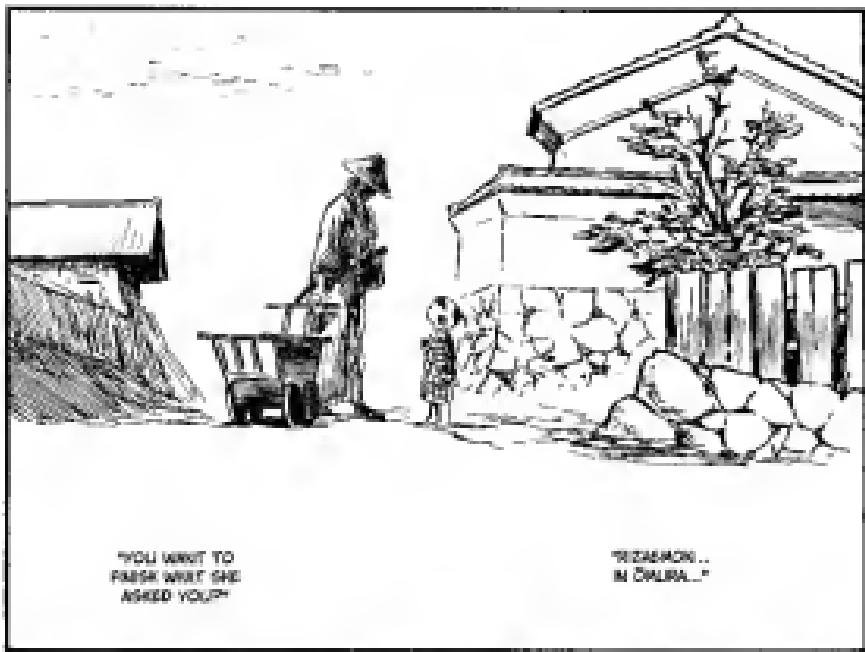


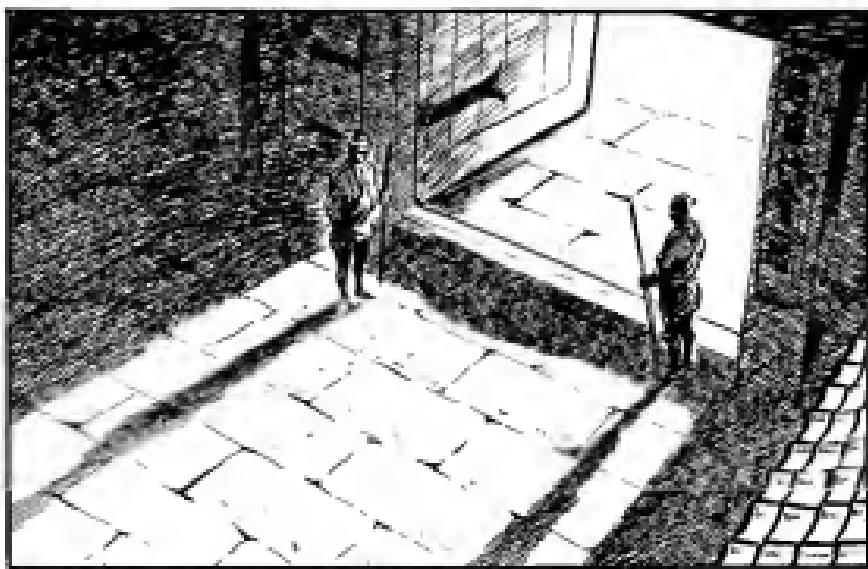
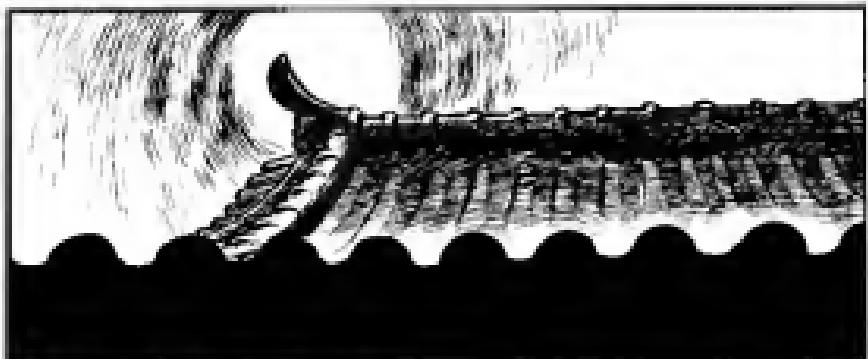




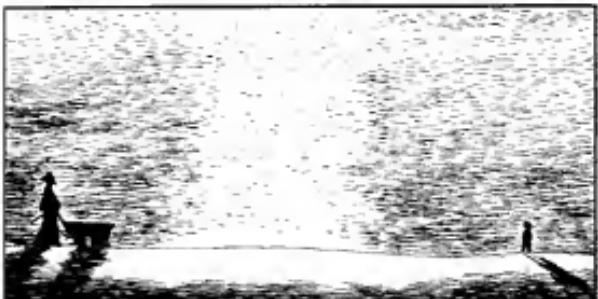
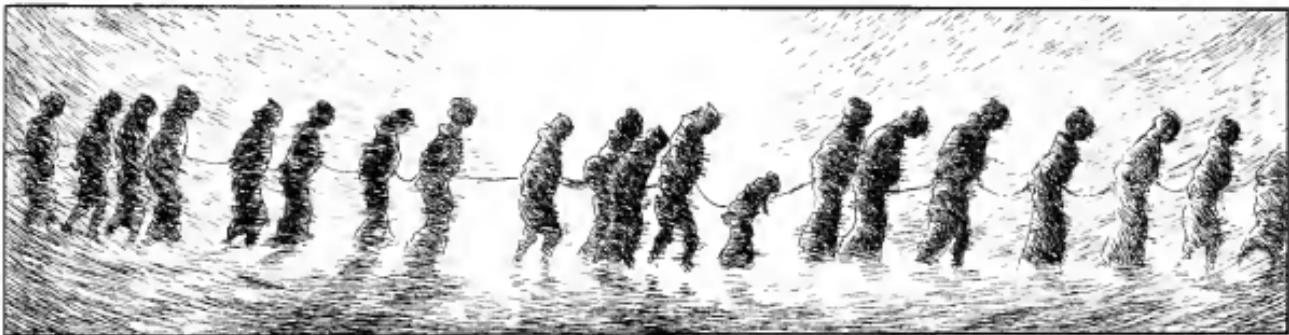


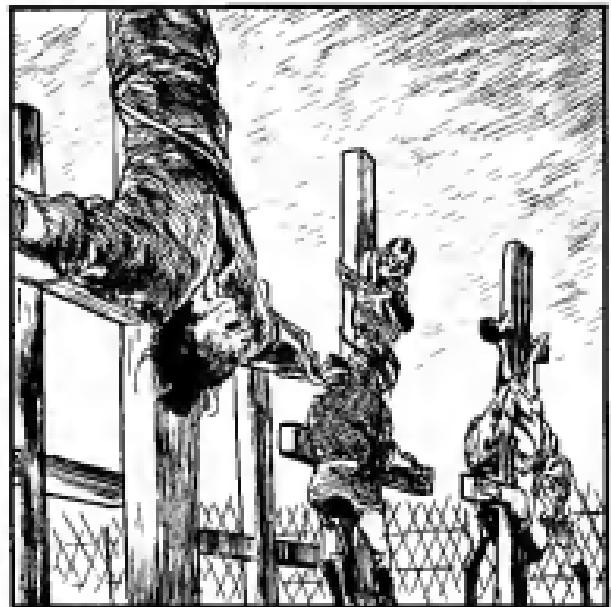
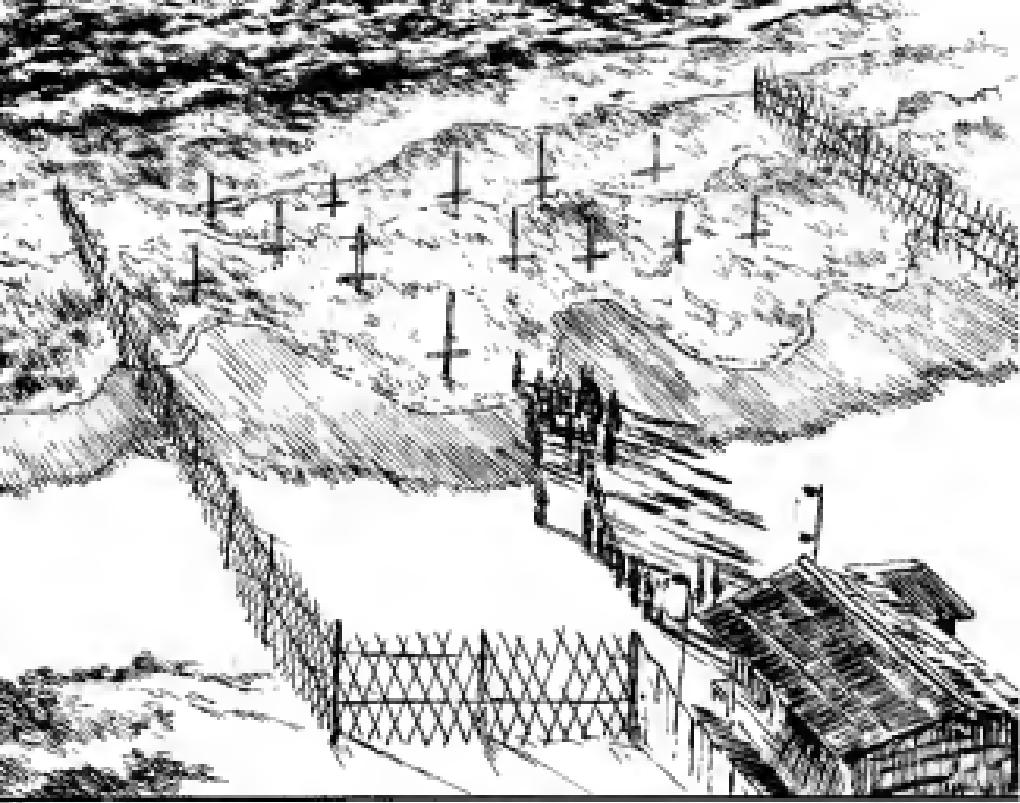


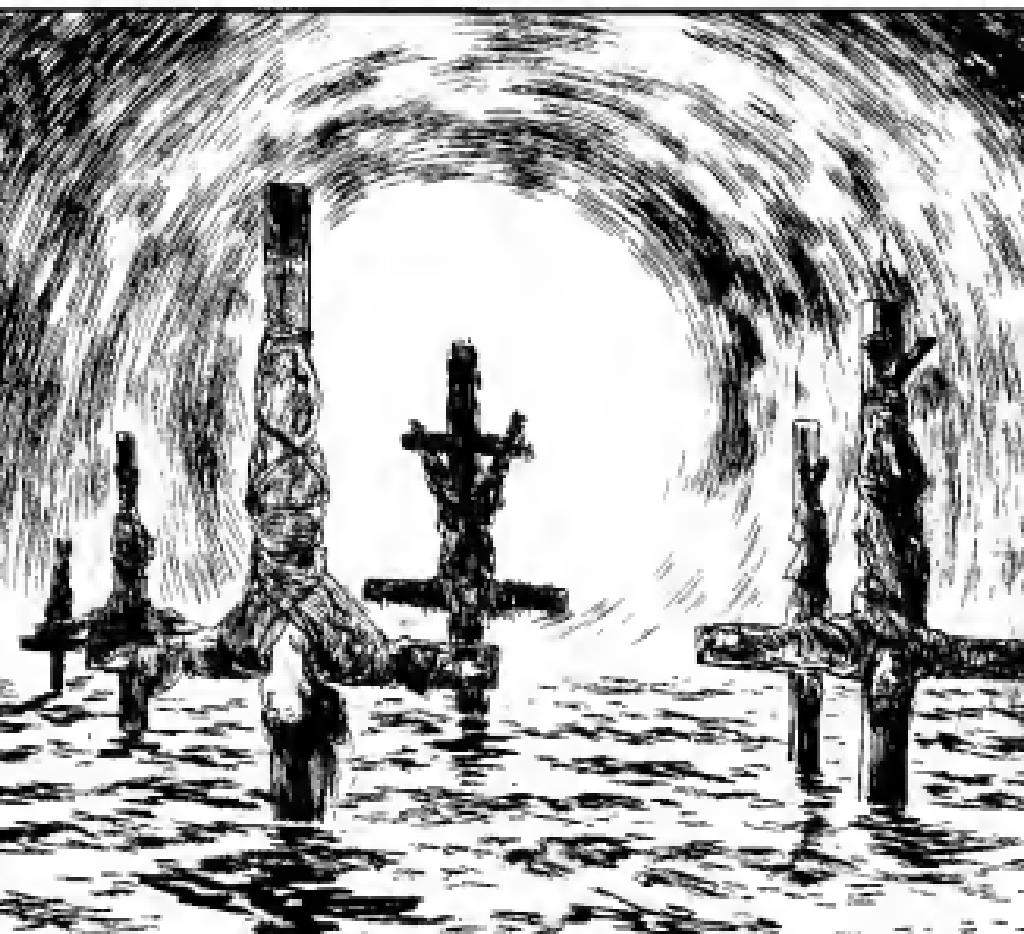


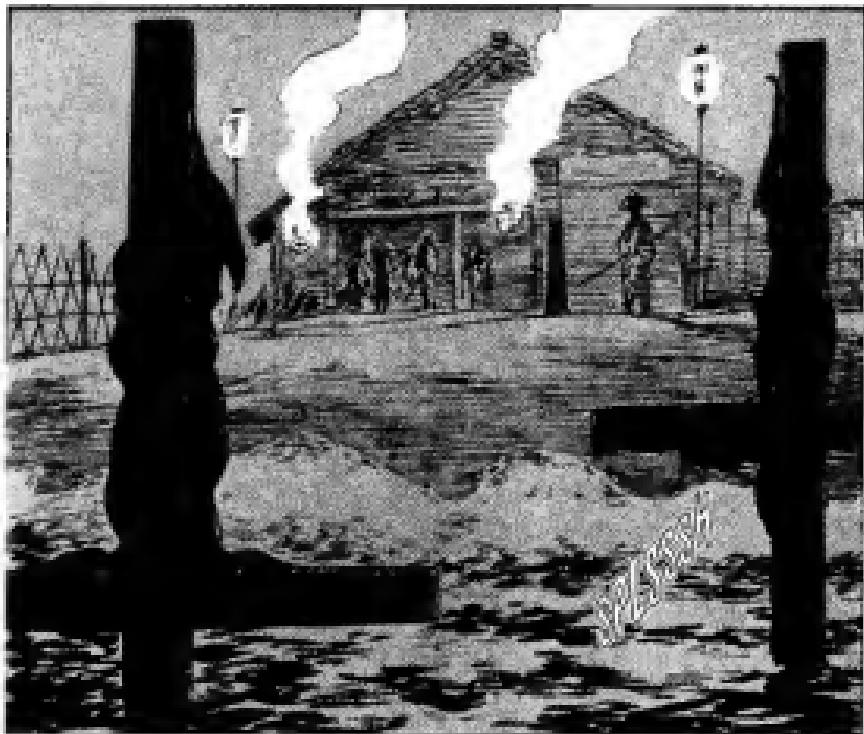


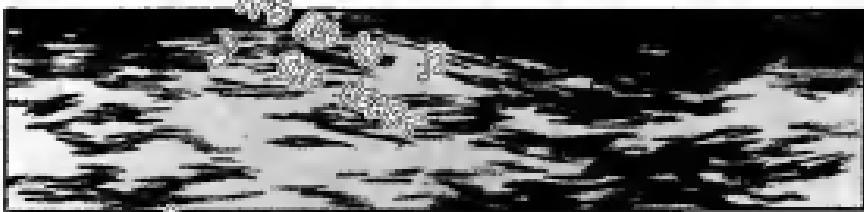


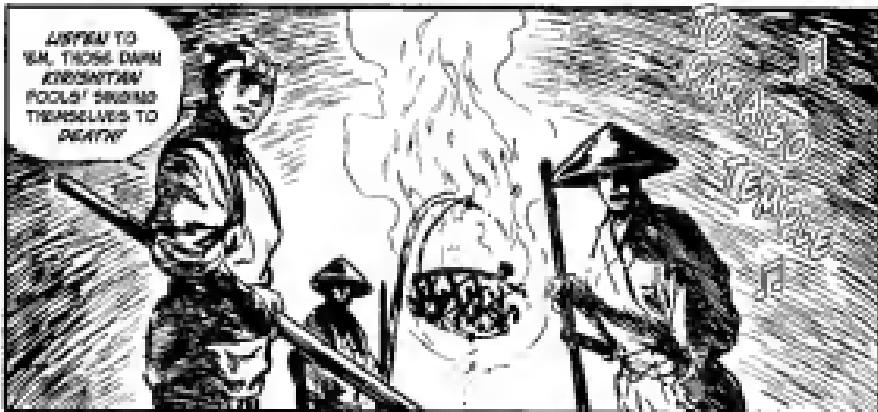


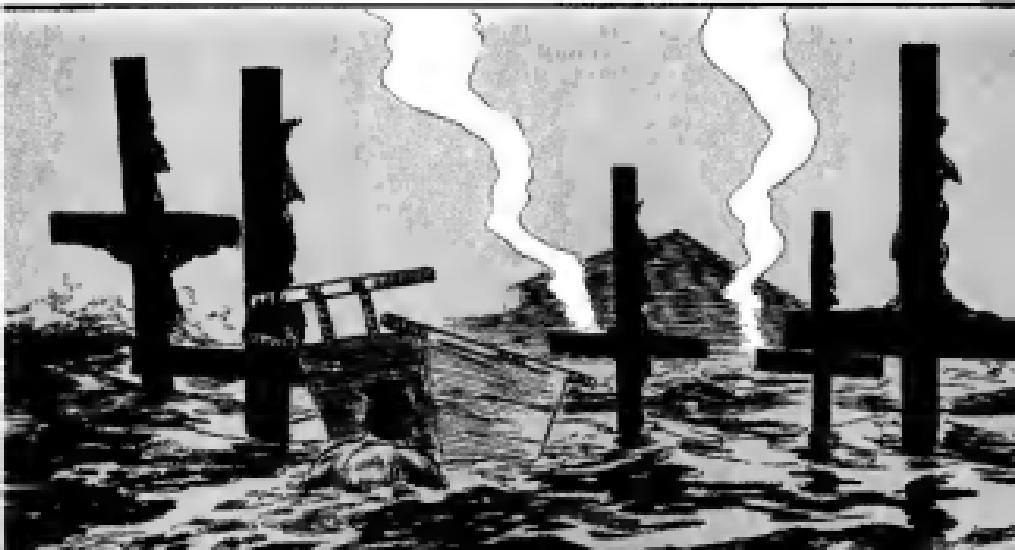


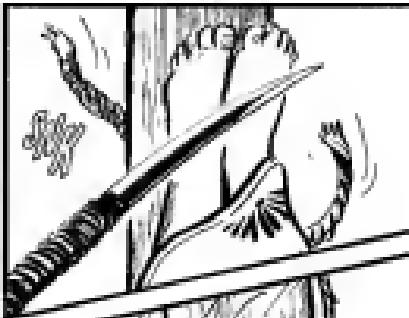
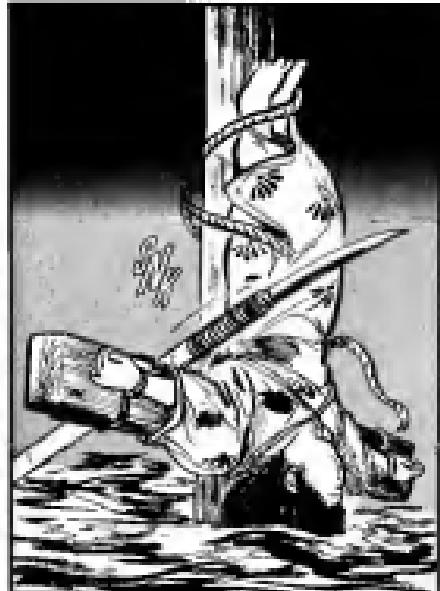
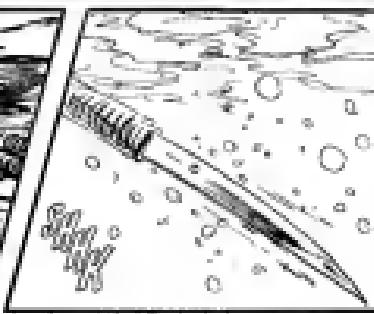
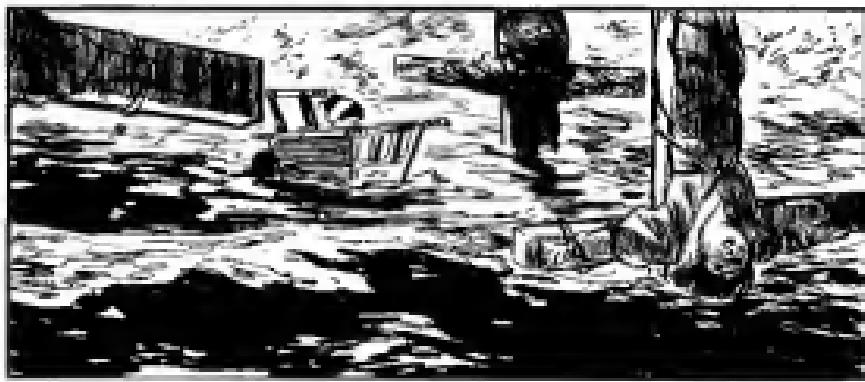


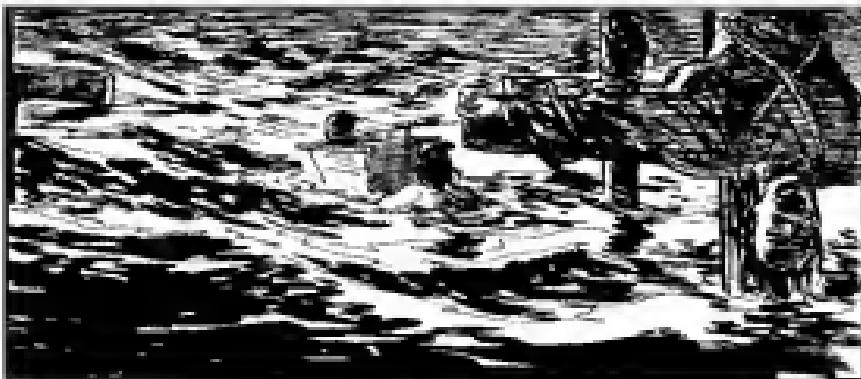
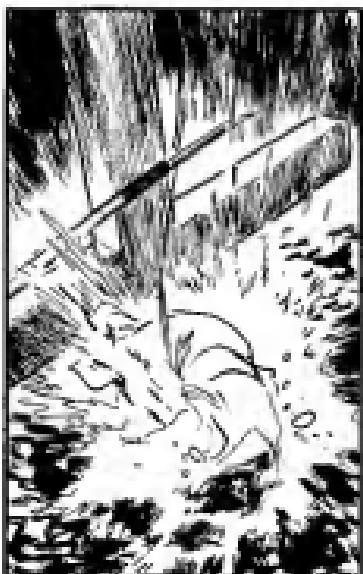


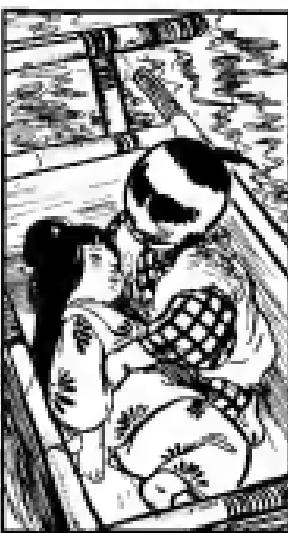
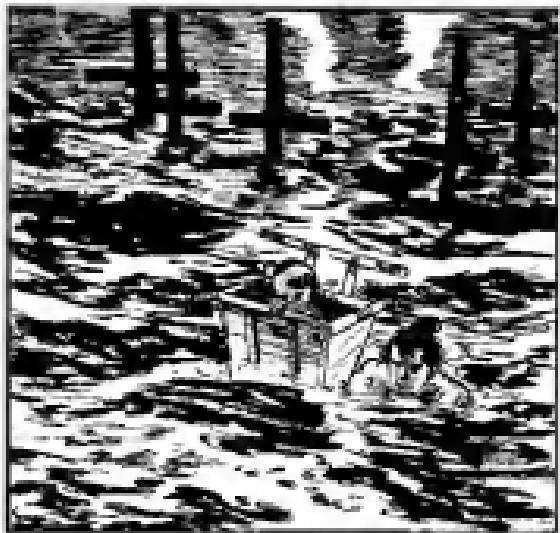


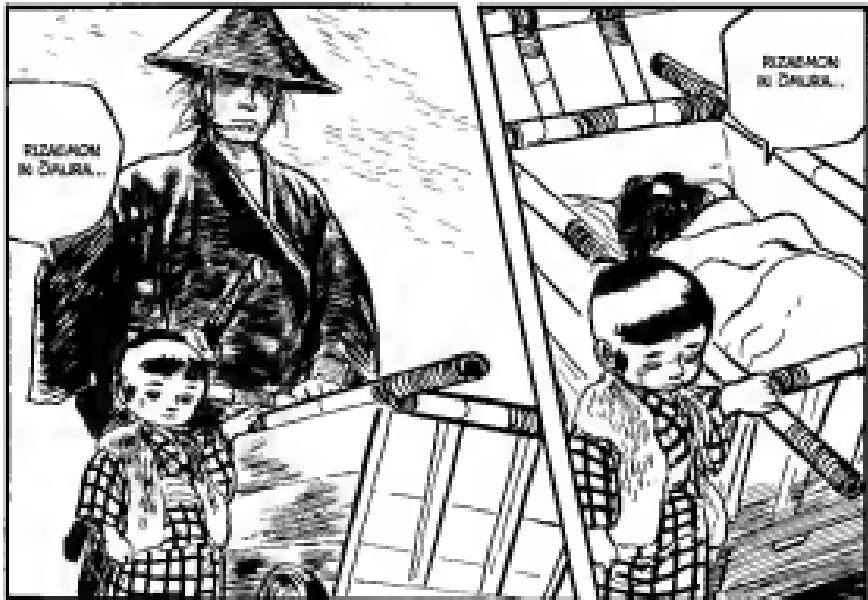


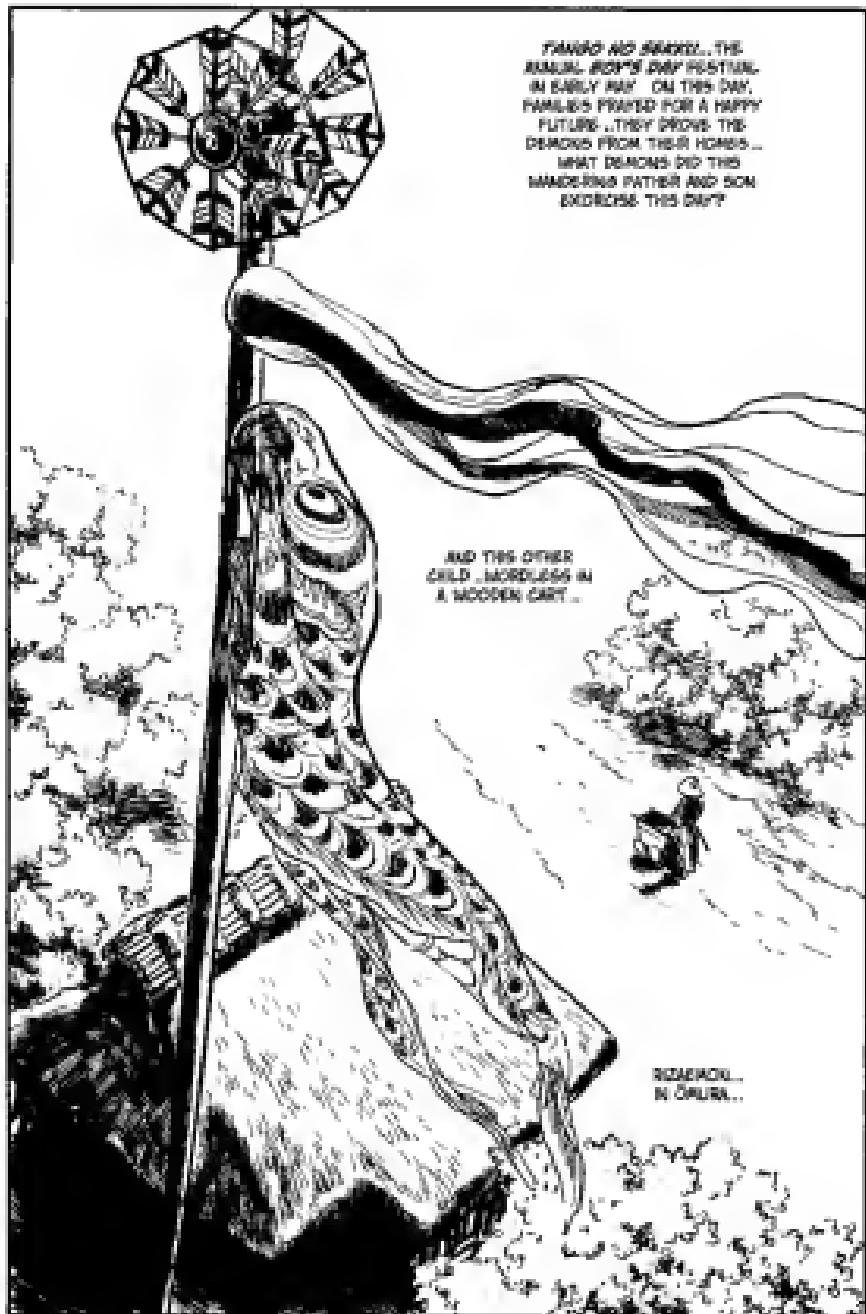












TANAKO AND SHAKO... THE
ANNUAL IRON'S DAY FESTIVAL.
IN EARLY MAY. ON THIS DAY,
FAMILIES PRAYED FOR A HAPPY
FUTURE... THEY DROVE THE
DRAGONS FROM THEIR HOMES...
WHAT DEMONS DID THIS
WANDERING FATHER AND SON
EXCUSE THIS DAY?

AND THIS OTHER
CHILD... HORDLING IN
A WOODEN CART...

RUMAKI...
IN OURA...

LONE WOLF AND CUB BOOK FOURTEEN: THE END
TO BE CONTINUED

GLOSSARY

bushi

A samurai. A member of the warrior class.

daikan

The primary local representative of the shogunate in territories outside of the capital of Edo. The Daikan and his staff collected taxes owed to Edo, and oversaw public works, agricultural, and other projects administered by the central government.

daimyō

A feudal lord.

fudai

The *fudai* were daimyō who supported Tokugawa Ieyasu, the first Tokugawa shogun, even before the 1600 Battle of Sekigahara that established his reign. Kuroda Yoshitaka, one of the non-Christian daimyō, was a trusted advisor to Tokugawa Ieyasu's rival, Toyotomi Hideyoshi. But by the time of Sekigahara, Yoshitaka's son and heir Nagamasa had allied himself with Ieyasu. He was rewarded for his loyalty at the campaigns with sovereignty over Fukuoka-han in northern Kyūshū, also known as Kuroda-han.

go-yō

Official business. As a lantern carried by the officers of the *daikan* magistrate, the equivalent of today's national police, or as the shout of the police apprehending a criminal, "go-yō" was one of the most dreaded words in the world of Edo/Japan's criminal elements.

gunzai

Commissioner. In areas administered directly by the shogunate rather than by a local han, the *daikan* magistrate was superseded by the *gunzai*, who performed the taxation and law-enforcement duties of the *daikan* but over a larger territory.

han

A feudal domain.

hōki

A peasant revolt. Japan's downtrodden peasants had almost no recourse in the Edo period. Peasants could travel to Edo to petition the government for relief, but the emissaries and their families would be put to death for their insolence, even when their pleas were accepted. No wonder then that the peasants frequently took matters into their own hands.

kainyō

Buddhist name; given by a priest at death so the deceased can enter paradise. A person's name in life is their *zokushō*.

kōgi kaishakumin

The shogun's own second, who performed executions ordered by the shogun.

kokku

A half of rice. The traditional measure of a han's wealth, a measure of its agricultural land and productivity.

menboho

A face guard, usually worn with a full suit of armor, both for protection and to intimidate one's enemy.

meibutsudo

The Buddhist Hell. The way of demons and damnation.

meshū

A village chiefman. In Edo Japan, a select handful of *meshū* were assigned official duties by the *machi-han* (Edo city commissioner) and local *shōkan* (magistrate). Peasants were forbidden to bear arms and had no family names, but these select few were given special dispensation to wear a sword and pass down their family name.

oku-sama

Term of respect for a wife.

Panaiso

Paradise. The Jesuit missionary Francis Xavier brought Christianity to Japan in 1549, only six years after the first Portuguese traders reached the islands. The religion spread through the southern island of Kyūshū, converting an estimated three hundred thousand believers, and even six daimyō. Much of the terminology of early Japanese Christianity like *Panaiso*, came from Portuguese. In 1587, alarmed by the growing foreign (Christian) influence in southern Japan and reports of western colonization in other parts of Asia, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, the first unifier of Japan, ordered the missionaries out. Twenty-six Christians were crucified in Nagasaki in 1597. After Tokugawa Ieyasu defeated Hideyoshi's son in battle at Sekigahara in 1600 and founded the Tokugawa Shogunate, the persecution of Christians intensified. Fifty-one believers in the southern port city of Nagasaki were killed in 1622, and in time more than three thousand would be tortured to death. The Japanese Inquisition had begun in earnest.

ri

Old unit of measurement. Approximately 4 kilometers (2.5 miles).

rōnin

A masterless samurai. Literally, "one adrift on the waves." Members of the samurai caste who have lost their masters through the dissolution of *han*, expulsion for misbehavior, or other reasons. Prohibited from working as farmers or merchants under the strict Confucian caste system imposed by the Tokugawa shogunate, many impoverished *rōnin* became "hired guns" for whom the code of the samurai was nothing but empty words.

ryō

A gold piece, worth 60 *monē*.

Sankō-ō

Three branches of the Tokugawa clan, not in the immediate line of succession.

Setkaidō

Literally, "Land of the Western" Sea. Arctic name for today's Kyūshū.

Shimabara uprising

A popular revolt in the Amakusa Islands near Nagasaki in 1637. It quickly became a Christian uprising under the messianic leader Shimabara Jiro. A shogunate army took Shimabara castle and massacred the rebels in 1638.

Shizume han

A *han* that anchored the Tokugawa presence in often rebellious Kyūshū. The Kuroda led the army that first suppressed Kyūshū's unruly warlords.

shōya

The senior peasant leader entrusted with local administration by the local *shōkan*. See *shōchi*.

KAZUO KOIKE

Though widely respected as a powerful writer of graphic fiction, Kazuo Koike has spent a lifetime reaching beyond the bounds of the comics medium. Aside from co-creating and writing the successful *Wolf and Cub* and *Crying Freeman* manga, Koike has hosted television programs; founded a golf magazine; produced movies; written popular fiction, poetry, and screenplays; and mentored some of Japan's best manga talent.

Wolf and Cub was first serialized in Japan in 1970 (under the title *Kagure Okami*) in *Manga Action* magazine and continued its hugely popular run for many years, being collected as the stories were published, and repainted worldwide. Koike collected numerous awards for his work on the series throughout the next decade. Starting in 1972, Koike adapted the popular manga into a series of six films, the *Baby Cart Assassin* saga, garnering widespread commercial success and critical acclaim for his screenwriting.

This wasn't Koike's only foray into film and video. In 1996, *Crying Freeman*, the manga Koike created with artist Ryōichi Ikegami, was

produced in Hollywood and released to commercial success in Europe and is currently awaiting release in America.

And to give something back to the medium that gave him so much, Koike started the *Gekiga Senjaku*, a college course aimed at helping talented writers and artists — such as *Ranma 1/2* creator Rumiko Takahashi — break into the comics field.

The driving focus of Koike's narrative is character development, and his commitment to character is clear: "Comics are carried by characters. If a character is well created, the comic becomes a hit." Kazuo Koike's continued success in comics and literature has proven this philosophy true.



GOSEKI KOJIMA

Goseki Kojima was born on November 3, 1928, the very same day as the godfather of Japanese comics, Osamu Tezuka. While just out of junior high school, the self-taught Kojima began painting advertising posters for movie theaters to pay his bills.

In 1950, Kojima moved to Tokyo, where the postwar devastation had given rise to special manga forms for audiences too poor to buy the new manga magazines. Kojima created art for *kami-shibai*, or "paper-play" narrators, who would use manga story sheets to present narrated street plays. Kojima moved on to creating works for the *kashi-kei* market, bookstores that rented out books, magazines, and manga to mostly low-income readers. He soon became highly popular among *kashi-kei* readers.

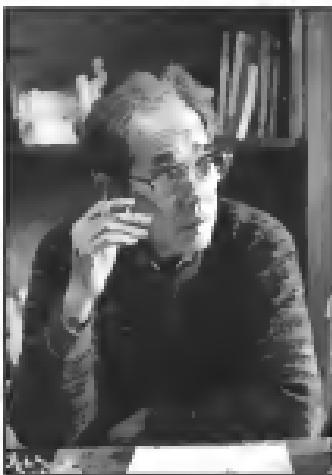
In 1967, Kojima broke into the magazine market with his series *Dojinki*. As the manga magazine market grew and diversified, he turned out a steady stream of popular series.

In 1970, in collaboration with Kazuo Koike, Kojima began the work that would seal his reputation, *Kewpie*

Okami (Lover Wolf and Cub). Before long the story had become a gigantic hit, eventually spinning off a television series, six motion pictures, and even theme song records. Koike and Kojima were soon dubbed the "golden duo" and professed success after success on their way to the pinnacle of the manga world.

When *Manga Japan* magazine was launched in 1994, Kojima was asked to serve as consultant, and he helped train the next generation of manga artists.

In his final years, Kojima turned to creating original graphic novels based on the movies of his favorite director, Akira Kurosawa. Kojima passed away on January 5, 2000 at the age of 71.





As the flames draw nearer, the fire gets hotter. Ronin assassin Ogami Itto seeks to learn what's written on the secret messages from the corrupt Yagyu clan to the Shogun and leaves a river of blood in his path. Elsewhere, a shamed woman attempts to force her husband to name his own child, but his job and honor stand in the way. Little cub Daigoro makes a new friend in another samurai fated to commit *seppuku* — ritual suicide — and defends the honor of a young playmate. The world keeps turning as the Lone Wolf and his Cub wander the land seeking revenge and answers, the questions to which are written in blood and glowing ink.

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